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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

When will the Legislature finally pass FY2011 budget?

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INSIDE

Opportunity Lost

Delegate candidate Joseph N. Camacho said that the past two years have been a "missed opportunity."

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Lower Price Tag

The $700 billion financial bailout will cost about $50 billion, the Treasury Department said Tuesday.

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Next Plastic

It is the thinnest and strongest material known to mankind - no thicker than a single atom and 100 times tougher than steel.

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House, Senate still differ on 4th budget bill

» Community members ask lawmakers to end shutdown

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

RELATED NEWS

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- Fitial exempts 7 at Medicaid, Scholarship Office from shutdown. **Page 4**

Seven days into the government's partial shutdown which temporarily sent over 1,000 workers out of jobs, the House of Representatives and the Senate still differ on the fourth and latest budget bill to be introduced in the 17th Legislature mainly because of work hour cuts and reprogramming authority given to the governor.

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HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

From left, Rep. Rafael Demapan (Cov-Saipan), House Sergeant-at-Arms Peter Towai, Rep. Frederick Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan), seated, Public Lands Secretary and former speaker Oscar Babauta, House legal counsel Joe Taijeron, Rep. Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan), seated, and Rep. Sylvester Iguel (Cov-Saipan) during a break in the House emergency session on Capital Hill yesterday.

Days since government shutdown: 7

FOUR BUDGET BILLS INTRODUCED IN 17TH LEGISLATURE

Introduced	Status
House Bill 17-96	**Aug. 10** Passed the House Passed the Senate, with amendments House rejected Senate amendments Conference committee formed but dissolved because of continuous deadlock
House Bill 17-119	**Sept. 29** Passed the House Passed the Senate with amendments House has yet to act on Senate amendments
House Bill 17-121	**Sept. 30** Passed the House Passed the Senate with amendments House has yet to act on Senate amendments
House Bill 17-122	**Oct. 6** Passed the House Passed the Senate with amendments Waiting for House action

SAIPAN TRIBUNE / ROSS GARCIA

Lang to remove Santos from committee chairmanship

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

House Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) plans to remove Rep. Teresita A. Santos (Ind-Rota) as chair of the House Natural Resources Committee because "she has not been voting along with the majority" bloc as the budget impasse with the Senate continues.

"I don't blame her. She's from Rota. She's a member of the Rota Legislative Delegation. They get together all the time," Tenorio told reporters after an emergency House session yesterday.

Santos

Santos, when asked for comment, said she respects the speaker's position but said she has yet to receive a written directive about her removal from the chairmanship.

The speaker also informed Santos that she should not be attending any more meetings of the House majority.

The speaker hinted that Rep. Eli

See SANTOS on Page 4

Partial payless payday on Friday—again

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Only critical and federally funded government employees will get their paychecks on Friday, for the work they performed before the partial government shutdown that started on Oct. 1.

Press secretary Angel Demapan, in an interview yesterday, said the administration is "almost unable to pay even the critical service employees" because of severe cash shortage.

"For non-critical employees, we are heavily dependent on cash and this is the thinnest margin we've had. We're at a point where after we make the payroll for critical employees, there's no longer money for emergency needs," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Critical employees include doctors, nurses, police officers, firefighters, and corrections officers. Also exempt from the payless payday tomorrow are federally funded employees, and those at Northern Marianas College and the

See PAYLESS on Page 4

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Local

Fund assures disbursement of pension checks next week

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund assured beneficiaries that they will get their pension and benefit checks as scheduled next week following the administration's approval last Monday of partial staffing for the agency.

In a statement sent to *Saipan Tribune* Tuesday, the Fund said the events leading up to the government shutdown unfolded in a very short period and presented many uncertainties.

It said that the applicability of the shutdown to the Fund challenged legal theories to their extremes. In anticipation of a shutdown, the board of trustees held emergency meetings on Sept. 27 and 29 where board members unanimously agreed they would authorize and instruct management to have necessary staff by Oct. 5, at the latest, to ensure benefits are paid by the next scheduled pension pay date of Oct. 15 as required by law.

The Fund acknowledged that there is a significant number of retirees and beneficiaries whose livelihood depend largely on income paid by the Fund.

"The Fund will continue to work within the confines of the Constitution and the laws, to obtain authorization and resources necessary to provide the most critical services to fund members. Other services may remain suspended until the approval of a balanced budget, but the board will be closely monitoring the situation and will take any actions necessary to protect the entitlements of the defined benefit plan members," the statement said.

This may involve bringing back more staff to restore services, but there are considerable legal issues the Fund has to work through in order to do so, prior to the approval of a balanced budge, according to the Fund.

"Without a balanced budget, our Constitution mandates that 'no funds shall be drawn from the general fund' which has been interpreted by the government as a shutdown of all services deemed by the governor to be 'non essential,' and this is where the legal issues that we refer to arise," added the Fund.

Saipan Tribune learned that on Oct. 1, a small group of retirees brought a motion in Federal District Court, as part of an existing lawsuit, seeking to have the court order the CNMI and the Fund to maintain full, uninterrupted operations.

On Oct. 4, the district court issued an order refusing to hear the motion because of a stay that is currently in place as a result of an appeal to the Ninth Circuit of the issue of whether the district court has proper jurisdiction to hear the underlying case at all. District Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood indicated in her order that she granted the retirees' motion with respect to the substitution of parties only, and that in order for any other matter to be heard, it would be necessary for the retirees to first move the court to lift the stay.

CUC says ongoing projects extended, no work stoppage

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s ongoing projects in Dandan and As Terlaje are not affected by the partial government shutdown; contrary to reports that work in the two areas was stopped last week.

CUC assistant executive director for operation Abe Utu Malae disclosed this to *Saipan Tribune* yesterday claiming that the agency only extended the award of one project due to the closure of the insurance commissioner's office.

Malae said there are two ongoing projects in Dandan, one near the Dandan Joeten Building which is a sewer rerouting project and is now 50 percent complete.

"It is still ongoing and there are no delays," said Malae.

Malae justified that during the days when there were no workers seen within the project site, it was because the contractor's crew worked elsewhere and allowed cement to cure or bedding materials to compact.

The other project is one below As Terlaje Hill which is the collapsed sewer main, which Malae claims is already 80 percent complete.

Malae said the sewer re-routing project near Joeten Dandan costs $350,000 and is expected to be completed by December this year.

The sewer main repair in As Terlaje, meantime, costs $100,000 and has target completion date of next month.

"There is no work stoppage at all. We had to extend the award of one project because the insurance commissioner office was closed. The law requires that insurance commissioner puts his stamp of approval on any surety bonds," he explained.

Malae disclosed that the Attorney General's Office has fully reviewed the contract.

Saipan Tribune learned that for community improvement projects, CUC has the expenditure authority and doesn't require approval from the CIP office.

However, Malae admitted that if the shutdown order last longer, it will adversely impact future projects of CUC.

"We are okay for now, except for any projects in future that require approval of the contractor's surety by the insurance commissioner," admitted Malae.

CUC received funding approval for the improvement of power, water, and wastewater systems on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota totaling to $10.5 million—all sourced from the capital improvement projects 702 monies for FY 2009 and 2010.

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Laptops not enough, PSS orders 350 more

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Public School System is ordering more new laptops after finding out that it is 350 units short of supplying the Commonwealth's middle school and high school students who are entitled to the technology.

Under PSS' One-Laptop-Per Child project, which was funded through phase 1 of the state fiscal stabilization fund, all middle and high schools students in private and public schools are entitled to laptops.

Board of Education member Herman T. Guerrero and PSS federal programs officer Tim Thornburgh said an increase in enrollment this year resulted in more students in the middle school and high school levels.

Guerrero

"Our laptop order of 5,200 laptops was based on last year's enrollment as the order was placed in March 2009. We have had an increase in enrollment at the secondary school level this school year. As a result we are ordering an additional 350 laptops so that every student in grades 7-12 will receive a laptop computer," said Thornburgh yesterday.

To remedy the situation, Thornburgh said PSS will first distribute laptops in the private school to students in the ninth and 12th grades.

This is in contrast to public schools, where all students from seventh to 12th grade will be given laptops.

According to Guerrero, PSS' primary responsibility is the public schools.

"It is my understanding that the 5,200 laptops are not enough for all students grades 7 to 12 for public schools and grades 9 to 12 for private schools…" said Guerrero in an email to *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Thornburgh, for his part, said the distribution of laptop computers already began last week and is still ongoing.

"The second distribution of the additional 350 laptops will be done as soon as possible. We are awaiting information from the manufacturer, Dell, on the production and shipping schedules," he said.

TO DEFEND HIMSELF ON OPA PROBE

Buckingham hires private counsel

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Attorney General Edward T. Buckingham has hired a private attorney using public funds to represent him in connection with an ongoing investigation over the hosting of a gathering for delegate candidate Joseph N. Camacho of the ruling Covenant Party.

A lawyer disclosed to *Saipan Tribune* that Buckingham has tapped attorney Anthony Long to defend him in the allegations.

The lawyer said Buckingham used taxpayers' money to pay Long's legal representation.

Asked about the issue, Buckingham yesterday confirmed that he indeed retained Long to serve as his counsel effective Sept. 17, 2010.

Buckingham said Long will represent him as AG in connection with the Camacho issue and related issues.

"He (Long) is engaged pursuant to a contract with the Commonwealth," the AG said.

Asked why he has to get a private counsel, Buckingham said it is appropriate since representation by a subordinate in the Office of the Attorney General creates numerous issues including potential conflicts.

"The terms call for payment at an hourly rate consistent with experience," said Buckingham as to the question of how much the government will pay Long's attorney's fee.

The Office of the Public Auditor is reportedly investigating the complaints lodged against Buckingham and the OAG for hosting the gathering for Camacho at Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's residence in Gualo Rai on Aug. 28, 2010.

Concerned citizens said Buckingham and the OAG may have violated election and ethics laws for hosting the gathering.

Buckingham has already recused himself from all involvement and oversight of the November 2010 election.

Buckingham had stated earlier that he is not in a position to endorse any candidate and hasn't endorsed any candidate.

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Fitial exempts 7 at Medicaid, Scholarship Office from shutdown

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial issued yesterday a fourth amendment to his Sept. 30 executive order to exempt from the ongoing partial government shutdown seven additional personnel from the Department of Public Health's Medicaid Division and Vital Statistics Division, as well as from the Scholarship Office.

Today marks the seventh day of the partial government shutdown that began on Oct. 1, because of a lack of a budget passed and signed into law by the Sept. 30 deadline.

Fitial's latest amendment adds to the list of "essential service" positions the Scholarship Office administrator but only for Oct. 7, 8, 12, and 13.

Also exempted are: one accounting technician I, an accountant I, an eligibility worker II, Medicaid administrator, and an administrative assistant. from DPH's Medicaid Division.

Also added to the list is a statistics specialist IV from DPH's Vital Statistics Division but only on an on-call basis.

"This amendment is necessary and takes effect Oct. 7, 2010 in light of the continuing shutdown to ensure that essential services related to health, safety and welfare of the people of the CNMI remain functioning," he said in his Executive Order 2010-15.

As a result of the government shutdown since Friday, over 1,000 government workers have been unable to report to work.

The governor issued an executive order on Sept. 30, declaring a state of emergency for the CNMI "due to the lack of a balanced budget being in effect on Oct. 1, 2010."

He has since amended it four times. The first one was on Saturday, to exempt from the shutdown over 100 personnel.

On Monday, he exempted some personnel from the NMI Retirement and on Tuesday, four personnel from the Department of Public Lands.

The House of Representatives and Senate, as of last night, have yet to agree on a $132 million budget bill for Fiscal Year 2011.

Kick-off for Domestic Violence Awareness Month tomorrow

The Domestic Violence Awareness Month Committee of the Family Violence Task Force will kick off its celebration at 10:30am tomorrow at the Coalition Office in Oleai.

The theme for the Domestic Violence Awareness Month is "Striving for a Safer Community."

Domestic Violence Intervention Center coordinator John Aguon told *Saipan Tribune* that tomorrow's event features the reading of the proclamation signed by Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and a presentation of a success story regarding a domestic violence case in the U.S.

Aguon said there will also be presentations from Judge Kenneth Govendo and Shelli Neal of the Attorney General's Office.

The committee said people must remain diligent and continue to fight for the safety of the entire community despite the challenges confronting them.

"This means ensuring that services for victims of domestic violence not only exist but are comprehensive and culturally relevant," the committee said in a statement.

The committee also said that offenders must be held accountable by issuing swift and appropriate punishment and offering treatment programs.

Law enforcement staff, social workers, medical personnel, and other domestic violence intervention advocates should also be honored and recognized for being of service to survivors.

"Please join us as we continue our fight to end domestic violence in the CNMI," said the committee. ***(Clarissa V. David)***

Vehicle sales up 16% in September

Vehicle dealers posted a 16-percent increase in new cars, vans, trucks, and sport utility vehicles in September, data released yesterday by the Commonwealth Auto Dealers Association shows.

The three-member CADA said in September alone, they sold 50 new vehicles, a 16-percent increase from 43 during the same month last year.

This brings to 463 the total number of new vehicles sold between January and September, a 38-percent increase from the same period last year.

Microl Corp., authorized local dealer of Toyota and Chevrolet, sold the most last month with 23 units, a 28-percent increase from a year ago. This also brings to 205 the number of vehicles it has sold since January, a 48-percent growth from last year.

Joeten Motors sold 18 units of Nissan, Ford, Honda, and Kia in September, a drop of 18-percent from September last year. Its year-to-date sale of 158 is a 58-percent increase from last year.

Triple "J" Motors sold only nine new vehicles in September, a 200-percent growth from the same month last year when it sold only three. Between January and September, it sold 100 new units, a 3-percent increase from the first nine months of the year. Triple "J" is the local authorized dealer of Hyundai, Mitsubishi, Isuzu, Suzuki, and Mazda units.

SUVs were the most saleable type of vehicle in September with 23 units, followed by cars with 15, vans with seven, and trucks with five.

The top SUV of choice in September was the Toyota 4 Runner with seven units sold. This was followed by the Nissan Rogue with four sold units, and three units each of Suzuki G. Vitara and Toyota Highlander. CADA also sold the following SUVs last month: two units each of Hyundai Tucson and Toyota RAV 4, and one unit each of Kia Sportage, and Mazda CX7.

Among cars, Toyota Corrola and Toyota Yaris sold the most in September with three units each. They were followed by the Mazda3 with two units sold. Last month, CADA also sold one unit each of Honda Accord, Honda Civic, Honda Fit, Kia Forte, Mazda2, Nissan Maxima, and Toyota Camry.

CADA sold seven vans last month: five Ford E-Van and two Toyota Sienna.

Among the five trucks sold last month, two were Ford Ranger, two were Toyota Tacoma, and one was Nissan Frontier.

CADA also sold 224 used or second-hand vehicles since January, and 15 in September alone. ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

BUDGET

From Page 1

Rep. Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan) introduced House Bill 17-122 in an emergency session yesterday.

HB 17-122, House Draft 2, passed the House on a 12-7 vote early yesterday afternoon. Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan) was absent because he was off-island.

Shortly before 9pm, the Senate passed the budget bill in the form of HB 17-122, HD2, Senate Substitute 1.

The bill passed the Senate on an 8-1 vote. Sen. Luis Crisostimo (D-Saipan) was the one who voted "no."

The latest budget bill goes back to the House.

It is again up to the House to accept or reject the Senate-amended bill.

"We urge the House to consider the budget bill. The Senate already compromised so much," Senate Vice President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) told *Saipan Tribune* last night.

Just like the House, the Senate also held an emergency session yesterday.

Rita Castro, a government employee who has not been allowed to report to work since Friday, was crying while she was testifying before senators last night.

"I'm begging you all to pass a budget… I'm putting a face to voters who put you in there," said Castro, who also held a placard urging the Senate to pass the governor's budget bill.

The mother of four said it has been very hard for government workers like her who has not been making a living since the partial shutdown started.

During the House's emergency session earlier yesterday, concerned citizens, government employees, and government officials also took turns asking the Legislature to reach a consensus and pass a budget "to end the suffering of the people."

Rep. Ray Palacios (Cov-Saipan), during the session, said he apologizes to the public for the Legislature's failure to meet its constitutional mandate to pass a timely, balanced budget. He said he shares the pain experienced by those affected by the shutdown, and expressed hope the deadlock would be over soon, so that a budget could be passed.

For the first time in CNMI history, the government has been in partial shutdown since Oct. 1 for the failure to pass and sign a budget by the Sept. 30 deadline.

Work hour cuts

Work hour cuts remains as the most contentious issue under HB 17-22.

The House stood firm on a 16-hour cut per pay period while the Senate officially offered a 12-hour cut per pay period in trying to reach a compromise with the House, from its previous eight-hour proposal.

House Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) reiterated that the Legislature should not pass a budget bill that Gov. Benigno R. Fitial will surely veto.

Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan) said a 16-hour cut per pay period and 13 unpaid holidays will maintain a "balanced" budget as the governor proposed.

Tenorio said a compromise budget bill he was earlier proposing is now impossible to introduce after the governor, during a meeting yesterday morning, said he would only sign a 16-hour cut per pay period and 13 unpaid holidays.

That compromise bill would have agreed to the Senate's original eight-hour cut but with an attachment of the revised figure of 333 employees to be laid off.

Under the latest budget bill, both houses now agree to 13 unpaid holidays for Fiscal Year 2011, a leadership account of $138,000 each for the House and Senate, and lawmaker's annual discretionary allowance of $85,000 each.

The bill that the House and Senate passed also agreed to a funding level for Northern Marianas College and the Public School System that meets the Maintenance-of-Effort agreement between the governor and the U.S. Department of Education.

Debate

In the House, the latest budget bill passed only after a lengthy debate, and impassioned statements.

Both majority and minority members argued their stand mostly on the work hour cuts.

"I plead to each one of you my colleagues, I beg you, let's put aside our political differences, personality differences… Let's support this bill. Over 1,400 people, and more, are suffering now. You are adding insult to injury," Basa said as he introduced his bill.

Rep. Joe Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) made a floor amendment to increase the budget of NMC to meet the MOE.

The result of the voting was 9-9. Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan) abstained.

To break the tie, the speaker changed his vote to "yes," and NMC got a budget that meets the MOE.

Minority members led by Rep. Diego Benavente (R-Saipan) reiterated the need to pass revenue-generating bills. They said this was agreed upon on Monday night during a meeting with Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos.

The speaker said he did not sanction the Monday night meeting.

Rep. Joe Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan), at one point, asked Basa, "When are you going to learn?" He was referring to the introduction of new budget bills that they knew would be changed by the Senate mostly because of the work hour cuts.

"If the bill doesn't pass, what will you do next?" Deleon Guerrero added.

During the public comment period at the House session, among those who testified were Ignacio Demapan of the Indigenous Affairs Office, NMC's Henry Hofschneider, former speaker Pete Deleon Guerrero, Public Lands Secretary and former speaker Oscar Babauta, and press secretary Angel Demapan.

In the Senate, members of the public, including Retirement Fund board's Sixto Igisomar, Workforce Investment Agency director Edith Deleon Guerrero. and Commerce Secretary Michael Ada, took turns appealing to the senators to pass a budget. Just like in the House, tempers also flared at the Senate session.

PAYLESS

From Page 1

Public School System.

Other employees will get their paychecks mid- or late next week, Demapan said.

Employees on Capital Hill interviewed yesterday expressed disappointment that they won't get their paychecks on time again, at a time when over a thousand employees were not able to go to work because of a lack of budget passed and signed into law.

This will be the fourth partial payless payday in CNMI history, as a result of declining government revenue. The previous ones were on the paydays of June 18, Sept. 10, and Sept. 24.

CNMI government revenue has steadily declined in the past years. From over $200 million just a few years ago, the annual projected revenue has dropped until it reached only $137 million in the current fiscal year. In fiscal year 2011, this figure is projected to go down further to $132 million.

SANTOS

From Page 1

Cabrera (R-Saipan), who has been voting along with the majority members, may replace Santos as chair of the Natural Resources Committee.

"We have enough votes to retain the majority. We want to get her out," Tenorio added.

The majority bloc used to consist of seven Covenant Party members, and four independents including Santos.

The Republican minority, led by Rep. Diego Benavente (R-Saipan), has nine members.

But since the Fiscal Year 2011 budget discussions have started, Cabrera has almost always voted along with the majority. He also helps in drafting all the budget bills introduced by the majority. Santos lately votes along with the minority.

Despite the switch, the majority will still have at least 11 members.

Moreover, Rep. Joe Palacios (R-Saipan) has also been voting along with the majority lately.

Santos is one of four House and Senate members from Rota, along with Senate President Paul Manglona (R-Rota), Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota), and Sen. Juan Ayuyu (Ind-Rota).

The Senate has not been passing House budget bills mostly because of differences in proposed work hour cuts. The House leadership wants 16-hour cut per pay period and 13 unpaid holidays.

The Senate has been pushing for an eight-hour cut per pay period, but to reach a compromise with the House, changed this to 12 hours per pay period plus 13 unpaid holidays.

VA urged to review complaint of NMI veteran

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs is being urged to review the complaint of an NMI veteran whose application for benefits was disapproved verbally by one of its staffers.

NMI Delegate to the U.S. Gregorio Sablan, in his letter to U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric K. Shinseki on Monday, asked the federal agency to review the incident that involved NMI veteran Segundo Castro.

Sablan said Castro was among a group of veterans who were told by VA staffer Lathe K. Bragg that anyone who contacted their member of Congress would not receive his assistance or the individual's file would be placed at the bottom of his work load.

"Mr. Castro also stated that Mr. Bragg announced to the group that Mr. Castro was on his second request for benefits and that his request would not be approved," Sablan told the secretary, adding that it is his responsibility as NMI delegate to ensure that constituents like Castro receive the benefits and services to which he is entitled.

"For this reason, I request an inquiry be made into the incident Mr. Castro has reported. If necessary, appropriate action should be taken," added Sablan.

Saipan Tribune learned that Bragg is assigned at the veterans affairs Oakland regional office in California and met Castro's group last week.

In a telephone interview yesterday, Castro said he decided to seek Sablan's assistance to once and for all help other veterans seek clarification on the status of their applications.

Castro claimed that Bragg even attacked his character during the conversation.

Castro said that because the same situation has been happening to other veterans from the islands, he pointed out the need to form an alliance with disabled veterans from other regions to bring a strong voice to the VA.

"Over the summer, I met the Disabled Veteran Group's Commander in Western Texas and we discussed about forming an alliance with other groups of disabled veterans throughout the United States and its territories. We wanted to create a U.S. Disabled Veterans collision where we can address our dilemma with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs," he added.

Marine Corps Ball tickets now available

FINEGAYAN, Guam—The 235th Marine Corps Ball will take place on Nov. 6 at the Sheraton Laguna Sirena Ballroom. Look forward to experiencing a formal USMC birthday ceremony in which the III Marine Expeditionary Force Brass Band and your local Marines will take part. Besides a delicious sit-down dinner that will be served, lively entertainment is also being planned.

Ball tickets are now available at the Pacific War Museum in Maina (477-8355), the Pacific Daily News offices in Hagatna (472.1736), and the Marine Forces Pacific Forward offices at NCTS/Finegayan area (355.2338). Cost is $50 per ticket.

Please join your Marine Corps in celebrating this memorable event. The community is invited to attend. ***(USMC)***

AT EVIDENTIARY HEARING IN VILLAGOMEZ CASE

Court allows retired judge Munson to testify via video conference

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The federal court will allow retired judge Alex R. Munson, who now resides in Idaho, to testify via video conference at the evidentiary hearing pertaining to the issue whether or not Munson directed the public be excluded from jury selection in the trial of former lieutenant governor Timothy P. Villagomez and co-defendants James A. Santos and Joaquina V. Santos.

At yesterday's telephonic status conference, U.S. District Court for the NMI visiting judge Mark W. Bennett, however, directed the prosecution and the defense to discuss alternatives in obtaining Munson's testimony.

Bennett was in Sioux City, Iowa when he conducted the status conference yesterday at 8:36am (Saipan time). He is a judge of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Iowa.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Eric O'Malley represented the U.S. government. Attorneys Dennis Riordan and David J. Lujan appeared for Villagomez.

Attorneys Victorino Torres and Ramon Quichocho appeared for James and Joaquina Santos respectively.

Riordan took the lead in the arguments for the defendants.

Discussed at the status conference were the logistical and scheduling issues that were raised in the U.S. government's motion for certification and motion to continue.

The U.S. government has asked the court to continue the Nov. 8, 2010 evidentiary hearing to a date when Munson can appear in person at the hearing on Saipan.

The prosecution suggested that the alternatives in obtaining Munson's testimony are either his live appearance or a declaration not subjected to cross-examination.

After the conference yesterday, Bennett ruled that the evidentiary hearing remains scheduled for Nov. 8.

Bennett said the hearing, however, may be continued into Nov. 9 to obtain testimony from Munson via video conference.

Villagomez and the Santos couple are currently serving their sentences in federal prison for their participation in the Rydlyme corruption scandal. They appealed to reverse many of the court's orders.

Ex-convict agrees to let US gov't take control part of her wages

The U.S. Attorney's Office and an ex-convict have agreed that the U.S. government should take control part of her wages in order to pay the restitution she owed to the U.S. Internal Revenue Service.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Mikel W. Schwab and defendant Dianne Marie R. Sablan yesterday jointly moved the U.S. District Court for the NMI to issue a writ of continuing garnishment on the wages paid to Sablan in the amount of $25 per pay period until her restitution obligation is paid in full.

A writ of garnishment is a legal process which the court orders the garnishee to hold money or property owed within 10 days after the writ is served.

Garnishee refers to a person, entity or corporation in possession of money or property of a defendant or judgment debtor.

In Sablan's case, the Lao Lao Bay Golf and Resort is named as garnishee.

The U.S. government and Sablan agreed that as of Aug. 24, 2010, Sablan has a balance of $13,534.44 in restitution principal, restitution interest, and penalty.

Sablan requested the court that wages paid to her in the amount of $25 per pay period be made payable to the clerk of the U.S. District Court for payment toward her restitution that is due and owing.

In September 2007, the federal court handed down a seven-month jail term on Sablan who was convicted for her involvement in a fraudulent income tax refund scheme.

Sablan pleaded guilty to conspiracy to submit false claims against the U.S. government and to aid and assist tax fraud. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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Camacho cites priorities, says past 2 years a 'missed opportunity'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Former CNMI House of Representatives floor leader and delegate candidate Joseph N. Camacho said Tuesday that the past two years have been a "missed opportunity," referring to the term of the current delegate, Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan.

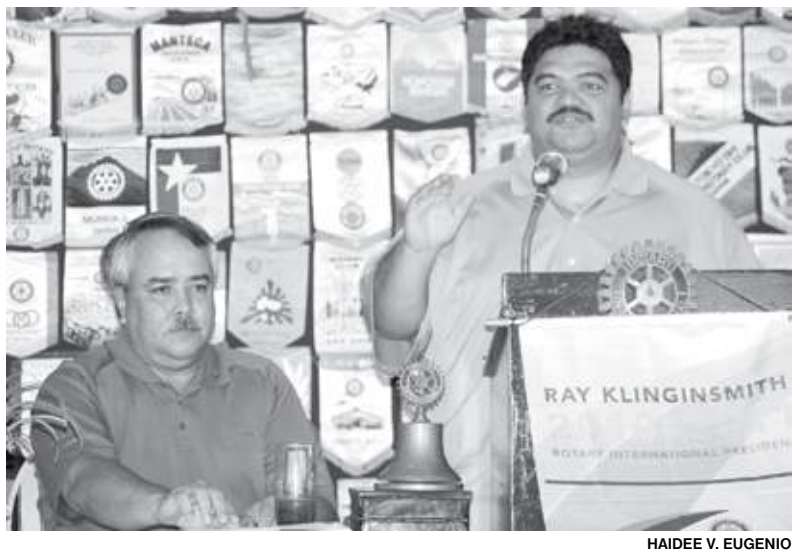
Camacho, the guest speaker in Rotary Club of Saipan's weekly meeting at the Hyatt Regency in Garapan, said the current delegate should have worked with, instead of against, the CNMI's elected leaders to advance the interest of the islands in U.S. Congress.

He said as the CNMI faces its toughest economic conditions in decades, the more that leaders need to work together.

"Let us elect a candidate that can work with the CNMI leaders, with other delegates, and insure that the interest and concerns of the people of the Commonwealth are united in one voice, one direction," Camacho told Rotary Club members and guests.

Camacho, who is running under Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's Covenant Party, also cited his priorities if and when elected as the CNMI's nonvoting delegate to the U.S. Congress.

These include making sure U.S. citizens in the CNMI have jobs and do not compete with nonresident workers, work on bringing in new and additional federal grants, take full advantage of the military buildup including making sure the U.S. military could buy local crops from CNMI farmers, and create a shipyard in Lower Base where U.S. Navy and U.S.-flagged vessels could be repaired in the CNMI.



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Delegate candidate Joseph N. Camacho, right, gestures as he addressed members and guests of the Rotary Club of Saipan during the club's weekly meeting Tuesday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan in Garapan. Looking on is Rotary Club president Glen Perez.

"A CNMI delegate must exert more effort to fully realize the role of the Office of the delegate in D.C. A CNMI delegate must take full advantage to coordinate, mobilize, and lead the CNMI residents living in the United States especially in areas such as Seattle, Portland, San Diego, and other areas to leverage U.S. congressional members in those areas to support the CNMI," he said.

Camacho said this is a common legislative strategy used by Puerto Rico, for example.

"As delegate, I will not overlook this vital resource to push much needed legislation," he added.

'Opposed to Interior report'

Camacho, in his statement at the Rotary Club meeting, said he is opposed to the U.S. Department of the Interior's report recommending granting improved immigration status to foreign contract workers "because it failed to comply with the requirement to have a meaningful consultation with the CNMI governor."

He said 20 years ago, foreign workers supplemented the local workforce. Today, however, foreign contract workers are competing with the local work force for jobs, he said.

Camacho, who is currently a practicing attorney, said the U.S. does not have an open-door policy on foreign contract workers but has a policy that limits annually the influx of foreign contract workers.

"The standard is not what foreign contract workers want or what foreign contract workers think they deserve because they have been in the CNMI for so many years. The guiding principle of the CNMI as it relates to foreign contract workers is the same as the United States and that is whether there is a need for foreign contract workers," he said.

This was part of his discussion about the federalization of CNMI immigration through U.S. Public Law 110-229.

The foreign workers are one of three categories he cited.

The other one includes tourists, foreign students, and foreign retirees who he said need to be continuously brought to the CNMI to help the economy through their spending and "are not seeking employment."

A Rotary Club member said without the services of foreign workers at hotels and other related businesses, tourists and foreign retirees will also not be able to enjoy their stay in the CNMI.

Camacho's second category includes foreign investors. The U.S. has three categories for foreign investors, including E1, E2, and EB5 investors.

He said E1 and E2 investors do not want any status but merely want to travel to and from the U.S. to visit their investments.

An EB5 category, he said, are foreign investors who want status but must be able to invest $1 million and employ 10 U.S. citizens.

Camacho said except for a few large hotels, golf courses, and large businesses, most CNMI foreign investors would not qualify under the EB5 category. We need a CNMI-only foreign investor (category)," he said.

He said collectively, the delegate and the CNMI elected leaders must determine the acceptable level to maintain and attract foreign investors to the CNMI.

"Once that level is determined, it is the job of the delegate to push legislation for a CNMI-only foreign investor," he added.

'Animosity'

Camacho, toward the end of his presentation, shared what he meant by working together.

He said candidates cannot attack each other or attack the CNMI's elected leaders "and still claim that if elected they will work together."

"It is the unfortunate nature of politics and political parties that oftentimes candidates in the heat of campaigning forget that harsh words linger after the election. You only have to read the newspaper to see the daily attacks and animosity between our current delegate against our CNMI elected leaders, or the harsh words of the current delegate against the delegate of Guam and other territories and even the RNC (Republican National Committee) chairman. This is not the way to build bridges and serve the people of the CNMI," he said.

During the question-and-answer, Camacho said Sablan introduced 23 bills and none became law.

But Sablan's team earlier refuted this, saying that Sablan co-sponsored legislation that became law, and sponsored riders to other bills that became law that benefited the CNMI.

Camacho said he supported Sablan in the 2008 election. He said the governor also did, and this was the reason why the Covenant Party at the time didn't field a delegate candidate.

"Upon taking office in 2009, Kilili alienated the administration and others," he said, adding that during the election, Sablan thought former House speaker Heinz Hofschneider of the Republican Party would become the next governor.

Another Rotarian asked Camacho whether he would caucus with the Democrats or Republicans in the U.S. Congress, but he said it is not that simple to answer this, saying it will depend on the issues and not parties.

The Rotary Club has invited the four delegate candidates to address the Rotary Club during its Tuesday meetings. Former governor Juan N. Babauta and former lieutenant governor Jesus Borja addressed the members in previous meetings, while next Tuesday will be Sablan's turn.

Rotary Club president Glen Perez earlier said this is part of the Rotary Club's efforts to understand the pressing issues of the community.

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

INVITATION FOR BID
MVA-IFB-10-2305

For: Printing of Customs Forms

Closing Date: October 26, 2010 Time: 3:00 p.m.

Submit sealed proposals to: The Division of Procurement & Supply
P.O. Box 10008
Saipan, MP 96950

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lieutenant Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Managing Director of the Marianas Visitors Authority are soliciting bids from qualified individuals or firms to print the CNMI Customs Declaration forms.

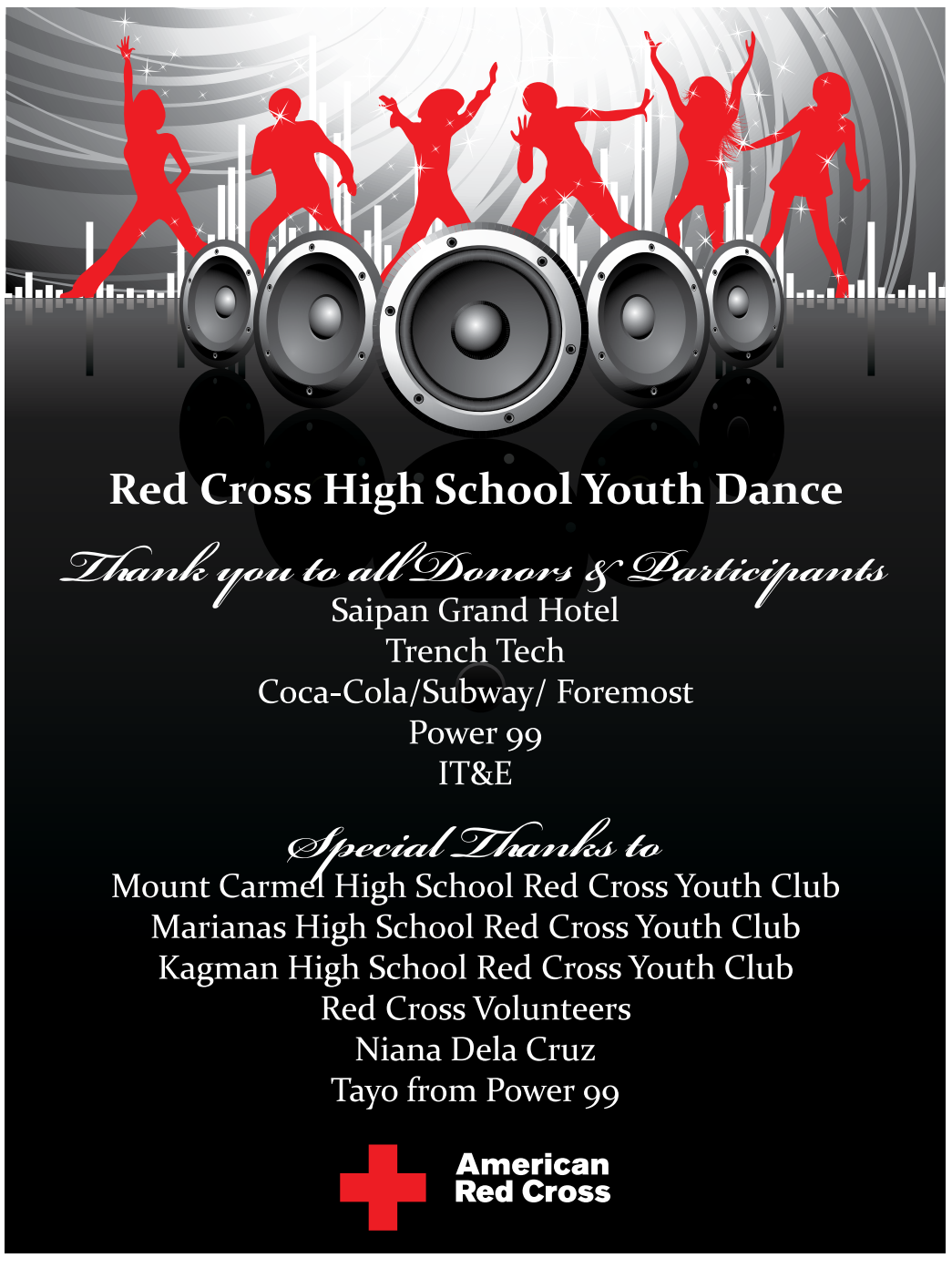
The scope of work may be picked up at the Marianas Visitors Authority in San Jose, Saipan during working hours from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays.

All bids must be signed, sealed and marked MVA-IFB-10-2305 and submitted with one (1) original and two (2) copies and must be received at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Drive, Saipan, no later than 1:00 p.m., Saipan Time, October 26, 2010.

Preference is available to U.S. Citizens or Permanent Residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118 and must be submitted with the bid of if preference is claimed.

/s/ HERMAN SABLAN
Director, P&S

/s/ PERRY P. TENORIO
Managing Director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Niana Dela Cruz
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COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

REVISED PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairwoman of the Board, is hereby giving notice that due to no quorum for the Special Meeting of the Board scheduled on Tuesday, October 5, 2010, the Special Meeting will be postponed to Saturday, October 9, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. at the Commonwealth Development Authority (CDA) Conference Room, Gualo Rai, Saipan. The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance.

I. **PRELIMARY MATTERS**
   a. Call to Order
   b. Roll Call
II. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**
   a. August 4, 2010 – Regular Board Meeting Minutes
III. **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS**
   a. Approval of Five Year Consolidated Plan
IV. **PROGRAM & HOUSING**
   a. Approval of PHA Plan
V. **MORTGAGE CREDIT PROGRAM**
   a. BankPacific Guarantee
   b. RD Defaulted Loans
   c. DF Financing Amendment
   d. RD New MOU
VI. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**
VII. **FISCAL AFFAIRS**
   a. OPA 1% Funding
   b. NMHC Bank Signatories
VIII. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**
IX. **OTHER MATTERS**
   a. Legal Contracts
   b. NMC CREES Request for Annex Unit
   c. Low Income Housing Tax Credit Update – 1602 Exchange
X. **ADJOURNMENT**

(Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/ **MARCIE M. TOMOKANE**
Chairwoman of the Board

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Van Dams, Hosonos to head Marriage Encounter Weekend

By JESS R.A.SONODA
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS
Jake and Jackie Van Dam.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter couples Jake and Jackie Van Dam and John and Carolyn Hosono have teamed up to lead the upcoming end-of-year Marriage Encounter Weekend.

The Weekend is scheduled to be held on Oct. 8-10, 2010. The event begins tomorrow evening and lasts through Sunday afternoon. It will be held at the Saipan Grand Hotel in Susupe. All married couples, priests and religious are invited to attend this twice-a-year only experience.

At the helm from start to finish are Jake and Jackie Van Dam, assisted by co-coordinator couple John and Carolyn Hosono. While the Van Dams are new to this role, it is not so for the Hosonos. In fact, they are quite an old hand at it—this being their second time to co-coordinate a Weekend. Their first was the Spring Weekend of March 19-21 this year. Prior to this, the Hosonos coordinated the Weekend of October 16-18, 2009.

Jake & Jackie

While this may be their very first time to head a Weekend, the Van Dams are by no means novices at involvement in the Marriage Encounter community. Since coming out of their Weekend in October 2008, Jake and Jackie have been quite involved in service to the M.E. movement. They have served in different capacities since – from heading the Hospitality Committee at the 2010 March Weekend to co-facilitating "Steps Along Our Journey," a post enrichment program for new members just coming off their Weekend.

The Van Dams were introduced to Marriage Encounter by their friends Russ & Kanae Quinn. However, it didn't take much convincing for the young couple to make the Weekend. They say they didn't hesitate at all because they truly believe Marriage Encounter would help their relationship. So their initial reaction to the invitation was they sure could use some help in their interpersonal communication skills to enhance their relationship.

Although they had never heard of M.E. until their arrival on-island, the Van Dams were told that the Weekend's aim was to give couples the tools to communicate better with each other. This made good sense to them since they could see this as having a positive result to a better and closer marital relationship. Besides, going into the Weekend was a good excuse to include a great "weekend getaway," sort of like a second honeymoon!

Of their M.E. Weekend, the Van Dams described their experience as a life-changing one. "Marriage Encounter has helped bring our relationship out of a dark pit and into the light and God," was the way they talked about their experience. They said as a result, they grew closer in "more intimate ways" than before when even though they were married, they pretty much lived their lives as if still single. They recounted that the tools they learned enabled them to actually be able to talk with each other "without yelling" and the competition to outvolume the other was reduced. Moreover, they emphasized that the Weekend showed them the great importance of God in their marriage and that without Him, it (their marriage i.e.,) won't work. They see God as an integral part of their marriage.

When asked why they gave their "yes" to coordinate the Weekend, their response was: "How could we say no? After everything Marriage Encounter has done for our relationship, we cannot say no to giving back to other couples. It's such a beautiful movement that we love to be a part of and want for so many others."

As for those readers who may be having some hesitancy to making the Weekend, the Van Dams have some encouraging words to them. "You only get out of your marriage what you put into it – so why not invest one weekend (for only $50) and help to better your relationship. It's more than worth it."

The Van Dams were married on 19 May 2007 in Sioux Center, Iowa. The officiating minister at their wedding was none other than their very own Grandpa Harry Van Dam!

The couple moved to Saipan mixing work with pleasure. They said they first came to teach at Saipan Community School while looking for "adventure and excitement and what better place than Saipan – halfway around the world and still like America!" Jake still teaches Middle School Math and Science at the same school while Jackie has just moved to Gold's Gym as its general manager.

Carolyn & John

Carolyn & John Hosono are a pair in contrast. Carolyn posseses a bubbly personality, always ready for action and laughter, quick at jokes and very much a "people person." John on the other hand is more on the quiet side, a picture of a thinker who quietly observes, and definitely studies and calculates matters at hand before shifting into action. Together they make a good mix as they portray a "balanced" picture of a couple otherwise totally opposites at cursory glance.

For Carolyn, exposure to Worldwide Marriage Encounter began even before her marriage. Many friends of her parents had made the Weekend experience. She had also attended many World Marriage Day celebrations in the diocese that she learned the M.E. theme song by heart. So when the invitation came from a childhood best friend to make the Weekend, Carolyn emailed back her response that by going into the Weekend together, their friendship would be mutually strengthened. She also stated in the email that in joining Marriage Encounter, this would open doors for many more good excuses to get together with her best friend.

For John, his explanation of his involvement with Marriage Encounter was that he had just come off a Cursillo retreat and that after this very uplifting experience, he was ripe for more "anything of the same." So when they were invited by friends to make a Marriage Encounter Weekend, he was more than receptive to the invitation. Besides, describing his disposition at the time, he said he was open to anything "Catholic" after his Cursillo retreat.

After their Weekend, the Hosonos have nothing but praise for the benefits they derived from their M.E. encounter. Like the Van Dams and many others, they also wanted to pass on this same terrific experience to others –most especially to those who may still be debating to go in or not.

Commenting on the make-up of the Weekend, Carol shared that she was impressed with the well-structured format of the program where three married couples and a priest presented the Weekend and shared themselves to the participants. She says that this setup sort of even out the playing field between husbands and wives through the team presentations because throughout the Weekend, the participants were given ample options to relate to the presentations as it relates to them and their marriages.

Another big discovery for the Hosonos in their Weekend was the closeness of interrelationship between their Sacrament of Marriage and to their priests – namely that the laity are considered as the spouses of priests and religious. They explained that because Christ is the Bridegroom and we, the Church, are His Bride so are we espoused to priests and religious who are Christ's representatives here on earth. Such a sublime realization on their part prompted them to encourage us to be more responsive to our priests' needs for love and care, just as they, the priests and religious should also strive to foster a closer and loving relationship with their people!

Carolyn and John Hosono made their Marriage Encounter Weekend in March of 2009. They have seven children (one girl and six boys) ranging in age from 8 to 19 years old.

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Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Oct. 7, 2002

'DPH can reject all CHC bids'

The Department of Public Health can reject all proposals submitted by different staffing companies when necessary, authorities said. "The DPH can do what it wants. That's the right reserved to the department," Procurement and Supply special consultant Robert Florian said. Likewise, Pedro Untalan, DPH special assistant, said that as of now, the DPH is not obligated to stick to the bidding process. He said the DPH remains at the "driver's seat." "If you look at it, this is a request for proposal. We're not bound to stick to that...I feel, we still are in the driver's seat to decide whether to accept or reject all bids," Untalan said. "What we have right now is a different type of process. It's a proposal. We're just wanting to know what is available out there," he added.

BoG sues Western Equipment

A company that lost in the bidding for the Marpi landfill and Saipan prison projects is in the brink of total collapse, after the Bank of Guam filed a lawsuit seeking possession of its assets. In a complaint it filed with the Superior Court, Bank of Guam said it wants possession of over 50 equipment that include dump trucks, backhoes and payloaders, among others, which the Western Equipment, Inc. used as collateral in obtaining loans. Earlier this year, the company was reported to be closing down operations, displacing dozens of workers. "Western is presently in default in the note and in the line of credit and owes the Bank of Guam the amount of [over $1.15 million]," said BoG, through its counsel, Gregory J. Koebel.

Oct. 7, 2003

HJHS discusses teen dating violence

Hopwood Junior High School will highlight the risks of teen dating when its Student Council officers lead the discussion on dating violence on October 11 at the Hopwood campus. Domestic Violence Intervention Center coordinator Jesse P. Stein said Hopwood Stuco officers are so supportive of the domestic violence awareness campaign that a mini-conference would be held during the weekend to educate teenagers on the risk of teen dating. "If we are to start the awareness of domestic violence and teen dating violence, this is where we should start. Teens are those aging 14 to 20 years old and, although some may disagree in the age, it is important to know that we are pursuing every possible way to raise their awareness on this issue," said Stein.

ADB funds still available to NMC

The Asian Development Bank is still open to the Northern Marianas College's application for financial assistance, according to Saipan-based ADB consultant Gary Baldwin. In an interview, Baldwin said the bank has actually approved NMC's proposed project, which amounts to $26 million. The NMC had applied for the loan/grant package last year but, by April this year, the college had said it would not materialize due to differences in goals. "Their objectives are different from us," NMC president Kenneth Wright had said. Baldwin, however, said that ADB had considered the project on one basic condition: for NMC to submit an educational accord between Micronesian colleges.

Oct. 7, 2004

NMC ready to face Senate oversight on mall transfer

Northern Marianas College is ready to face lawmakers to answer questions about the legality of the La Fiesta shopping mall's turnover to the CNMI government. NMC Board of Regents chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds said the college will continue to meet with the Office of the Public Auditor and Sen. Henry San Nicolas, chair of the Senate Committee on Health, Education and Welfare, to address concerns that the La Fiesta transfer might be illegal. "They're just doing their job. We truly appreciate their concern," King-Hinds said of the lawmakers questioning the legality of the turnover. "We have nothing to hide. We're more than willing to sit down with them and give them all the information they need."

SDA promotes dental hygiene among youth

The Seventh Day Adventist Dental Clinic continues to promote dental hygiene, with presentations on how to maintain healthy teeth and gums at various schools. Lori DeMaine, who conducts the presentations, visited Garapan Elementary School yesterday, explaining that providing dental and oral education to the public plays an important role in promoting health within the community.

Ex-CNMI ARRA officer to head small biz center

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A former compliance officer with the CNMI American Recovery and Reinvestment Act has been selected to lead the Small Business Development Center at the Department of Commerce.

Commerce secretary Michael Ada confirmed that Chris Sablan will replace former SBDC director Gary Liddle.

Ada made the announcement during the Saipan Chamber of Commerce meeting Wednesday at the Saipan Grand Hotel.

Ada told the media that the department and Liddle "parted ways" last Sept. 27.

The secretary commended Liddle for his great skills on the counseling aspect of the center, but said they needed someone to get on with the program aspect of the center.

"Where the program is right now, it wasn't really a good fit," said Ada.

Sablan

According to Ada, they were looking for a director who can "get things up and moving" at the SBDC.

Reopened on June 15 after 10 years of inactivity, the SBDC is part of a memorandum of agreement executed by the Department of Commerce with the Pacific Island Small Business Development Center Network.

SBDC provides small business owners with opportunities that can help them improve their existing businesses or assist them in establishing a new one.

It aids small business owners in increasing the rate of success of their businesses through their programs such as confidential business counseling, trainings, and community outreach.

The revival of the center is a collaborative effort between the Department of Commerce, Commonwealth Development Authority, the University of Guam, PISBDCN, and the U.S. Small Business Administration.

According to Ada, Sablan has already been interviewed and endorsed by the University of Guam. His formal appointment, however, has been put on hold because of the current government shutdown.

In an interview, Sablan said his experience in the business sector was derived from his involvement with his family's businesses, including import and export, wholesaling, and real estate.

Sablan acknowledged the challenges confronting the business community these days. "These are challenging times. The economy is really struggling. Any aspect of business needs help," he said.

Once appointed, Sablan vowed to set the SBDC programs in motion. "SBDC will become a support system for small businesses on the island. We will help small businesses become successful."

Customer activates fire extinguisher at Chicago Club 2

Customers, dancers, and other employees of Chicago Club 2 in western Garapan immediately evacuated the establishment after one of the customers activated a fire extinguisher inside on Saturday night.

No one, however, was reported injured.

Department of Public Safety spokesman Sgt. Thomas A. Blas Jr. said yesterday that David Toyloy, a 24-year-old African-American, was detained at the Department of Corrections in Susupe for criminal mischief.

Blas said it was at 9:43pm when DPS received a call of a possible structure fire at the Chicago Club 2.

Blas said patrol officers responded to the club and secured the scene.

Fire personnel inspected the building and determined that there was no fire.

Preliminary investigation conducted by Patrol Officer Rick Reyes showed that a man, who was in the club, walked up to a fire extinguisher that was mounted on the wall.

The man, who was later identified as Toyloy, then activated the fire extinguisher by firing its trigger.

White powdery substance coming from the fire extinguisher filled up the club, causing all occupants to immediately evacuate the building.

Blas said police arrested Toyloy at 10:07pm that same night.

The report did not mention Toyloy's motive. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

CRIME OF THE WEEK

Wanted: Suspected purse snatcher

Crime Stoppers is seeking the community's assistance for information on a robbery incident that occurred on the beach behind Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan in Garapan last Oct. 2.

According to a police, the victim, a 28-year-old Japanese female, was with another Japanese female walking on the beach behind the hotel at about 10:15pm.

A little while later the suspect approached the two females attempting to talk to them. Both females tried to avoid the suspect, but the suspect grabbed the victim's purse and a struggle ensued.

The suspect escaped with the victim's purse injuring the victim's thumb. The suspect was last seen running south toward Makaka beach.

The suspect is described as a local male in his 20s, about 5'5" tall, dark hair and skin, medium build, wearing red shorts, and no shirt.

The items stolen include a bag containing over $700 cash, a Japanese passport, some credit cards, and a cell phone which was later recovered.

Recently, there have been a string of thefts on the beaches of both the Fiesta Resort and Hyatt Regency Saipan hotels. The victims are tourists who go for nightly swims leaving their personal belongings on the beach. After taking a swim, the victim's return to discover their personal effects stolen. These crimes against tourist need to end.

DPS and Crime Stoppers are seeking help from the public. Please contact the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272 should you want to remain anonymous or use our website a www.nmicrimestoppers.com. Crime Stoppers pays up to $1,000 for any information leading to an arrest. It pays to call.

CNMI gets $1.6M from HUD

U.S. Housing and Urban Development Secretary Shaun Donovan recently announced the CNMI will receive nearly $1.6 million to support community development and produce more affordable housing.

"This funding provides the building blocks needed to improve communities," said Donovan. "Now, more than ever, these grants promote neighborhood development, produce affordable housing, and help extremely low-income persons find their place in their communities."

The funding announced includes:

- $880,000 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds;
- $647,000 in HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) funding;
- $63,000 in Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG).

Since 1974, HUD's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program has provided approximately $132 billion to state and local governments to target their own community development priorities. The rehabilitation of affordable housing and the improvement of public facilities have traditionally been the largest uses of CDBG although the program is also an important catalyst for job growth and business opportunities. Annual CDBG funds are distributed to communities according to a statutory formula based on a community's population, poverty, and age of its housing stock, and extent of overcrowded housing. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth I Sankattan Siha Na Islas Mariana
Ofisinan I Gubietno
Dipåttamenton I Tano' Pupbliku

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE EXTENSION FOR PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (a) and (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to recommend the extension of a lease on certain public land in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. This lease extension is subject to the approval of the Northern Mariana Islands Commonwealth Legislature in accordance with the mandate set out in Article XI, § 5(c) of the Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

i. The leased premises is described as public land Lot No. 027 E 02, containing an area of approximately 4,530 square meters, more or less, situated in Lower Base, Saipan. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands for inspection.

ii. The lessee is JL Reyes Incorporated, a CNMI Corporation. The Board of Directors of the Corporation are Juan S. Reyes, Dolores R. Tudela, and Leticia D. Reyes.

The President of the Corporation is Juan S. Reyes. The Vice President is Dolores R. Tudela. The Treasurer/Secretary is Leticia D. Reyes.

iii. The proposed lease extension was negotiated by Mr. Juan S. Reyes.

iv. The lessee shall continue to use the premises solely for the purpose of operating the business of general contracting, construction, offices, materials/supply warehouse, and activities related thereto.

The term of the lease agreement extension is 15 years.

The proposed annual rental during the term is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the properties.

v. Copies of the proposed lease extension agreements may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; the 2nd floor of the Bank of Saipan Commercial Building, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.

vi. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public lands in Lower Base, Saipan.

vii. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before October 14, 2010 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

NOTISIA POT MAPROPONEN EKSTENSION INATKILAN TANO´ PUPBLIKU

Sigun gi halom i Seksiona 106 (a) gi Lai Pupbliku 15-2, i Dipattamenton Tano´ Pupbliku guini na ha nå´i notisia i intension-ña para u rekumenda i ekstension ma'atkilan i pumalu na tano´ pupbliku siha gi halom Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan Na Islan Marianas Siha. Este na ekstension atkilon sinuhetu ni para u inapreba ni Lihislaturan Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Islan Marianas siha sigun ni mamånda huyong gi Attikulu XI, § 5(c) gi Konstitusion gi Sangkattan na Islan Marianas siha. Maseha håyi na petsona siha gi halom i pupbliku henerål siña manna´hålom infotmasion, opiñon, pat testamonion kinentra gi tinahguen propositu siha para i inatkilan tano´ pupbliku. Komu mås mapribeniyi ginen i Lai Pupbliku 15-2, ni tinattitiyi ni pettanesen infotmasion ni dinimånda na para u mapupblika

i. I ma´atkilan tåno´ pupbliku madeskribi komu Lot No. 027 E 02, ni kinensisiste i åria gi kåsi propiu 4,530 square meters, potlumenus mås, ni gaige giya Lower Base, Saipan. i kopian i pumalu na lugåt gaige na gumuaha gi Dipattamenton Tano´ Pupbliku Siha para i rikonosimento.

ii. I manatkikila si JL Reyes Incorporated, i Corportion. I Kuetpon i Direktot siha gi Corporation si Juan S. Reyes, Dolores R. Tudela, yan si Leticia D. Reyes.

I Presidenten i Corporation si Juan S. Reyes. I Sigundo Presidente si Dolores R. Tudela I Tresurårio / Sekritåria si Leticia D. Reyes..

iii. I maproponen ekstension atkilon manigosio gi as Siñot Juan S. Reyes..

iv. I manatkikila debi na u usa i lugåt siha uniku para i rason i manmaneha bisnes gi general contracting, konstraksion, ofisina siha, materiåt/supply na warehouse, yan i mana'achule' n aktibidåt siha.

I teman kontråtan inekstenden atkilon sa´ (15) åños.

I maproponen atkilon kada såkkan gi durånten i tema sigun gi percentage gi ma'estima gi fair market value gi propiedåt, inengklulusu i tumatachu na estrokto siha.

v. I kopian i maproponen kontråtan ekstension atkilon siha siña machule´ gi ofisian Dipattamenton Tåno´ Pupbliku Siha, gaige gi sigundo bibienda gi as Joeten Dandan Commercial Building giya Dandan, Saipan; i sigundo bibienda gi Bank of Saipan Commercial Building, Rota; pat i primet bibienda gi Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.

vi. I Dipattamenton Tano´ Pupbliku siha ha risibi tåya´ na tinahguen propositu siha para atkila i suheto i tano´ pupbliku giya Lower Base, Saipan.

vii. I Sekritårion i Dipattamenton Tano´ Pupbliku siha debi na uma´aksepta i tinige´ infetmasion, opiñon, testamonion kinentra pat tinahguen propositu siha ginen i maninteresão na pattida siha gi pat åntes di Oktubre 14, 2010 gi Ofisinan Dipattamenton Tano´ Pupbliku siha ni manggaige giya Saipan, Rota pat Tinian.

ARONGORONG REEL POMWOL AKKILONUL FALÚWEER TOULAP

Sángi Tálil ye 106 (b) mellól Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, Bwulasiyool Ammwlil Falúweer Toulap ekke atotoowow ammataf igha ebwe akkilaaló eghús falúw mellól Seipel, Commonwealth Téél Falúwasch Marianas. Akkilon yeel nge ebwe mwir sangi alughulughul Sow Ffeerul Allegh mellol Commonwealth Northern Mariana Islands iye e alléghewow mellól Article XI, Tálil 5(c) mellól Allégh Lapalap Northern Mariana Islands. Schóókka eyoor máfiyeer nge rebwe isisilong aghiyghiir, awewee, aingiingil reel pomwol akkilonul ammwelil falúweer toulap mebwal Alléghúl Toulap ye 15-2, e ayoora, lamal awewee kka rebwe mweiti ngáli milikka ebwe akkatéélo.

i. Pomwol akkilonul falúweer toulap nge ekke bwáári Lot No.027 E 02, faawu sangaras limeigh me eliigh llapal (4, 530 square meters), elapeló me ngáre eghús, elo Lower Base, Seipél Tilighial bwuley yeel nge eyoor mereel Bwulasiyool Falúweer Toulap (Public Lands) ngáre óubwe ghuley fischiy.

ii. Schéschéél schóól akkilon nge JL Reyes Incorporated, CNMI Corporation. Mwiischil samwool kkey (Directors) mellól Corporation nge Juan S. Reyes, Dolores R. Tudela, me Leticia D. Reyes.

Samwoolul Corporation nge Juan S. Reyes. Arúscheyil Samwool nge
Dolores R. Tudela. Treasurer/Secretary nge Leticia D. Reyes

iii. Schóól aweweel akkilon nge Mr. Juan S. Reyes.

iv. Schóól akkilon ebwe yááli bwuley me mwóghut ágheli bisinisil pwol (contracting), construction, offices, peiraghil warehouse, me akkááw mwóghutul.

Tool aighúghúl pomwol akkilon nge reweigh me limoow ráágh (25 years)

Pomwol akkilon ye llól alongal ráágh nge ebwe mwir sángi llapal méél falúw (value of the property).

v. Tilighial akkilon yeel nge emmwel óubwe bwughi mereel bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap, elo aruwowal pwó (2nd floor) me Joeten Dandan Commercial Building llol Tuturam, Seipél; aruwowal pwó (2nd floor) mellól Bank of Saipan Commercial Building, Luuta; me ngáre mmwal pwó (1st floor) mellól Kings Commercial Building, Tchúlúyól.

vi. Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge esáál bweibwogh mwo pomwol akkilon ye elo Lower Base, Seipel.

vii. Samwoolul Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge ebwe bwughil ischil mángemáng, aingiingil mereel amweyút mmwal Ottuubre (October) 14, 2010 mellól Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap iye elo Seipél, Luuta, Tchúlúyól.

Opinion

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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER
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EDITORIAL

Wronged in the name of science

What else don't we know about the U.S. government's unethical history of experimenting on human beings? A Wellesley College professor investigating the infamous Tuskegee study, in which black American men with syphilis were intentionally left untreated for decades to trace the course of the disease, recently uncovered a similar experiment that U.S. public health doctors conducted in Guatemala during the 1940s. In this horrific study, which lasted two years, about 1,500 prisoners, mental patients, soldiers and prostitutes were deliberately infected with syphilis and other sexually transmitted diseases, then given penicillin to test the antibiotic's effectiveness as a treatment.

Led by John C. Cutler, who later had a role in the Tuskegee study, the U.S. government-funded scientists selected Guatemala City's Central Penitentiary because prisoners there were allowed to have sex with prostitutes, some of whom already tested positive for syphilis and others who were infected before liaisons. When too few men became infected, the researchers introduced the syphilis bacteria directly into scrapes made on prisoners' penises, abrasions on their arms and faces or, in a few cases, "through spinal punctures." Records show the scientists knew at the time that their experiments were immoral and prohibited in the United States.

Last week, President Obama called Guatemalan President Alvaro Colom to apologize for the despicable experiments, and the National Academy of Sciences' Institute of Medicine will investigate further. That's a good start, and the Guatemalan government should follow suit with its own investigation, as this study was done with official cooperation, albeit without the permission of those infected. Since the drafting of the Nuremberg Code in 1947, the laws governing medical experimentation on human beings have been regularly updated to require informed consent, the right of refusal, prohibition of testing likely to result in permanent injury or death, and more.

Unfortunately, it's abuses such as this one that provide fodder to conspiracy theorists and skeptics who question the integrity of the government. Which is why a full reckoning in this case is essential. And it is why the government should launch an investigation to find out what other clinical research might have been carried out by American scientists on humans without their consent or full knowledge. Was this the last hideous surprise, or are there more medical secrets deep in the government's files? The American people have a right to know what immoral science has been carried out in their name.

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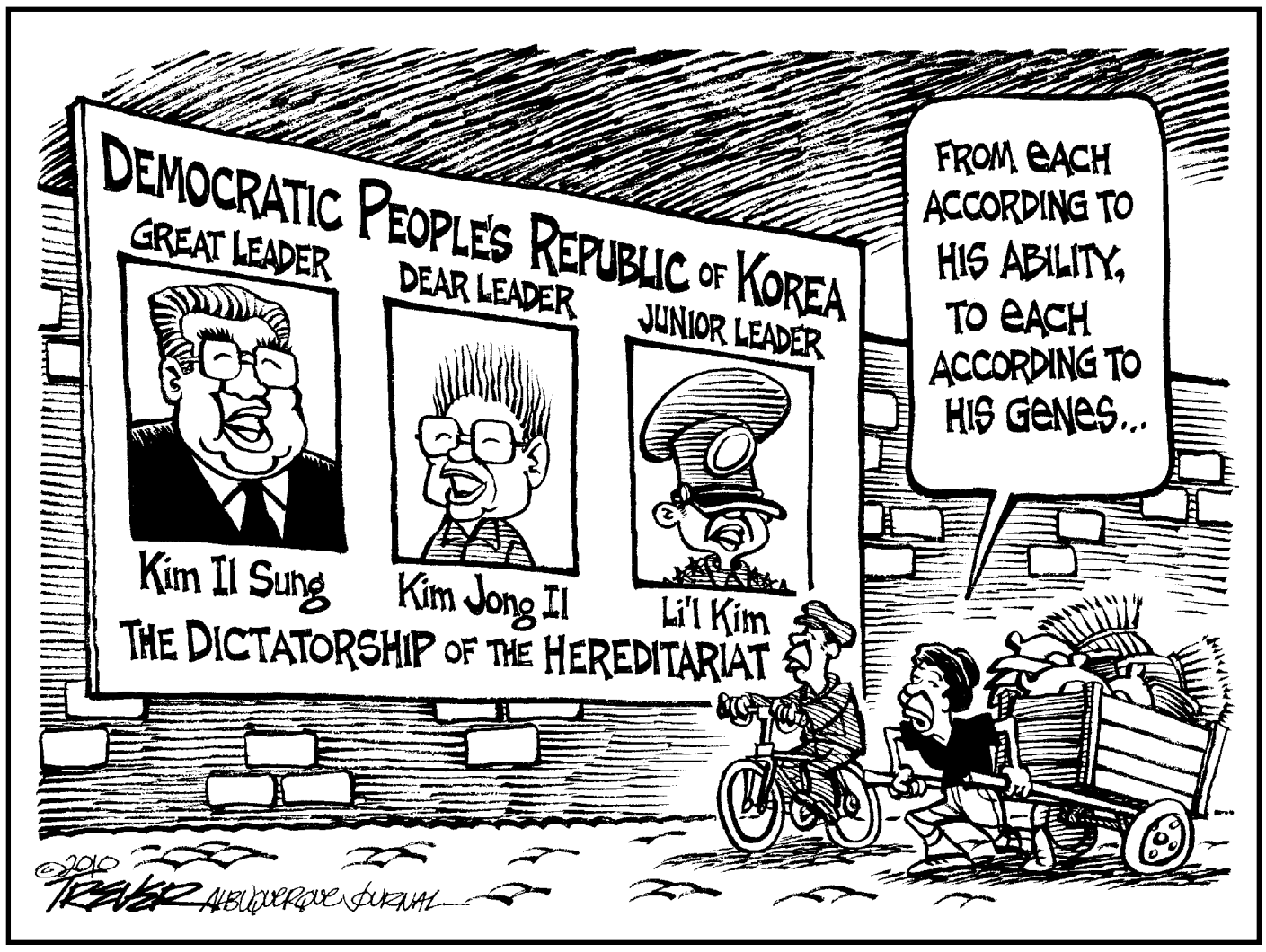
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THE DICTATORSHIP OF THE HEREDITARIAT
FROM EACH ACCORDING TO HIS ABILITY, TO EACH ACCORDING TO HIS GENES...
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Minimum wage primer—Part I

IMMIGRATION FORUM

By MAYA KARA and BRUCE MAILMAN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Maya Kara is a native of Hungary and comes to the practice of law by way of her interest in Asian history. Bruce Mailman is a native of Bakersfield, California and was a private investigator in California prior to becoming a lawyer. Both have lived and practiced law in the CNMI for over 20 years, Maya in government service and Bruce in private practice. They are married and are partners in the law firm of Mailman & Kara, LLC in Garapan, Saipan.

Although this is a forum concerned with immigration issues, this week and the next we will address aspects of the U.S. minimum wage law in light of the current increase from $4.55 to $5.05 per hour in the CNMI. Because the great majority of alien workers in the CNMI are minimum wage earners, this increase affects them more than the U.S. citizen population. Therefore, we think it is appropriate to discuss salient features of the law in this forum.

Under Covenant section 503(c), the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands was exempted from the minimum wage laws of the United States, until such time that Congress acted to impose them. Between 1979 and 1997, pursuant to Commonwealth law, the minimum wage in the CNMI increased incrementally from 1.35 per hour to $3.05 per hour. The minimum wage remained at $3.05 per hour for ten years. In 2007, Congress enacted legislation that eliminated the CNMI's exemption from the federal minimum wage under the Covenant and imposed an incremental increase of $.50 per year over a period of years until the CNMI minimum wage was equal to the federal minimum wage, which currently is $7.25 per hour. Three increases since 2007 brought the minimum wage to $4.55; the most current increase brings it to $5.05. According to an April 2010 GAO report, the initial increase affected the wages of at least one-third of private sector employees in the CNMI; subsequent increases were expected to affect 80 percent of the workers. But the increase in minimum wage does not only affect minimum wage earners. Businesses are struggling to not only keep up with increases in the minimum wage, but also to maintain wage parity for middle tier workers, an additional cost that is not addressed by the GAO report.

The current increase comes at a very low point in the economic health of the Commonwealth. Employers implemented the prior increases with a minimum of resistance although each increase was successively more difficult. Some hours were cut, some employees were not renewed, but on the whole there was a general agreement in the business community that wages needed to be increased to accommodate the high cost of living in the Commonwealth. This may not be so with the current increase. The additional $.50 per hour and its collateral wage parity increases will cut into the bottom line of many businesses. We think that there is likely to be renewed interest in whether minimum wage applies to a particular business or to a particular employee.

Minimum wage applies only if there is FLSA coverage

The first question any employer needs to ask: Is my business or individual employee "covered" by the FLSA. The minimum wage law is an integral part of the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), a comprehensive statute providing protection for workers in the workplace. Therefore, if your business or your specific employees are not "covered: by the FLSA, the minimum wage law does not apply. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, Wage and Hour Division, the vast majority of workers in the U.S.—more than 130 million—are "covered" by the FLSA. The proportion may not be so high in the CNMI. Employees working for small independently owned retail or service businesses or small construction companies may not be covered. The following are the steps in any analysis of whether or not there is coverage:

Employer-employee relationship: Is there an employer-employee relationship? This is the threshold question: if there is an employer-employee relationship, there may be coverage; if there is no such relationship, there is no coverage. Independent contractors are not covered; there are special rules for trainees and volunteers.

Types of coverage: If there is an employer-employee relationship, there are two types of coverage: enterprise coverage and individual coverage. If either applies, then the employee is covered unless some specific exception applies.

"Enterprise" coverage: If there is "enterprise" coverage, all the employees of the enterprise are covered. The rule for enterprise is relatively simple: the business must have at least two employees and conduct at least $500,000 of business per year. Hospitals, businesses providing medical or nursing care for residents, schools and preschools, and government agencies (federal, state and local) automatically come within the enterprise coverage; all employees of such entities must be paid at least the

See MINIMUM on Page 13

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

In search of meaning

"I expect to pass through this life but once. If, therefore, there can be any kindness I can show, or any good thing that I can do to any fellow being, let me do it now as I shall not pass this way again."—William Penn

Trials tend to test our inner resolve and reveal our true self. As individuals continue to struggle and suffer through the indignations imposed by self-serving leaders, many will question why this is happening and lash out in anger, while others will contemplate why there has to be so much suffering in life.

Many people have tried to solve the mystery of the meaning of life by referring to the teachings of great teachers, prophets, or philosophers; studying sacred writings; reflecting on religious doctrine; listening to the ideas of new age thinkers; or they may simply ponder the question in quiet meditation.

Years ago I read Viktor Frankl's seminal book, *Man's Search for Meaning*, in which he chronicles his experiences as a concentration camp inmate at Auschwitz during World War II. Frankl was trained as a psychologist and as he observed the behaviors of others who were forced into dehumanizing circumstances, he asked himself: "How was everyday life in a concentration camp reflected in the mind of the average prisoner?"

His clinical background allowed him to make accurate observations and test the theories of Freud. He was particularly interested in how others found meaning in the midst of extreme suffering. Unlike Freud's belief that people who were placed in dire circumstances would resort to animal-like behavior; Frankl observed that some of the inmates would walk through the huts comforting others and giving away their last piece of bread, even though it might mean starvation for them. Frankl stated that "they offer sufficient proof that everything can be taken from man but one thing: the last of human freedoms—to choose one's attitude in any given set of circumstances, to choose one's own way."

While on a forced night march with fellow prisoners, his thoughts were focused on his wife who was sent to another concentration camp. As his mind pictured her image he had a thought that transfixed him: "for the first time in my life I saw the truth as it is set into song by so many poets, proclaimed as the final wisdom by so many thinkers. The truth—that *love is the ultimate and the highest goal to which man can aspire*. Then I grasped the meaning of the greatest secret that human poetry and human thought and belief have to impart: *The salvation of man is through love and in love.* I understood how a man who has nothing left in this world still man know bliss, be it only for a brief moment, in the contemplation of his beloved. In a position of utter desolation, when man cannot express himself in positive action, when his only achievement may consist in enduring his suffering in the right way—an honorable way—in such as position man can, through loving contemplation of the image he carries of his beloved, achieve fulfillment."

We have the ability to choose our responses in life. There are those who choose to do things that better the lives of others, and there are those who use their power and influence in self-serving ways to manipulate others for their own benefit. Frankl postulated that there are only two races of men: decent and indecent. He believed that no society is free of either of them, and in his situation he observed that there were "decent" Nazi guards who showed concern for others, and "indecent" prisoners who would torture and abuse their fellow prisoners for personal gain.

By RIK VILLEGAS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Rik is a writer, marketing consultant and business instructor at Northern Marianas College. He can be contacted at RikVillegas@gmail.com and you can comment on this article at http://rikv.blogspot.com.

We have those in positions of power who are decent and trying to do what is best for the people of the Commonwealth, and we have others who are so focused on their own personal objectives that they are willing to allow others to suffer while they bargain with their lives for their own personal gain.

As we continue to experience greater hardships in life, remember that you have the power to change your circumstances for the better. Do not give into the machinations of indecent men and women who are at the heart of all this suffering. Instead, find greater meaning by focusing on how you can help alleviate the suffering of others. Remember that "love is the ultimate and the highest goal to which man can aspire."

We are not put here to see through one another, but to see one another through. Frankl concluded that the meaning of life is found in every moment of living. Life never ceases to have meaning, even in suffering and death.

"Man is capable of changing the world for the better if possible, and of changing himself for the better if necessary." – Victor Frankl

How to be a better writer

The only way to take control of your life, raise your standard of living and move beyond merely surviving is to create your own unique product or service that you offer to increasing numbers of people in exchange for the things of value that you desire. This simple formula applies to countries as well as people. A self-sufficient economy has its own products or services of value to export to the world. Similarly, a self-sufficient individual has something of value to exchange in the global marketplace. That thing of value is based on your natural talent, skill, or interest—in other words, your passion!

Hopefully, without sacrificing any of my humility by saying so, I believe I am now a better writer than I was before. I believe that one can reasonable expect to improve in any given pursuit that one practices consistently over time. So, as I accumulate more and more hours, days, months, and years of practice, and receive more and more constructive feedback, I believe I can confidently share some of what I've learned along the way.

I am inspired, therefore, to share a simple point with you on developing your writing craft. Writers of absolutely anything—books, poems, advertising, news reports, press releases, and greeting cards—may benefit. So, here goes.

Essentially, there are three elements to good writing: What you say, when you say it, and how you say it.

How you say it

"How" you say something is essentially a matter of your style. It includes grammar, as well as your unique syntax and vocabulary. These can all be improved over time as you practice, and read the work of other writers—particularly writers of previous eras. Without disparaging modern writers (because, of course I would be disparaging myself), I find that the level of respect for the written word and the subtlety and nuance of effective communication, and correct usage, has declined over the years. Once I received the foundational awareness of good grammar, sentence structure, phonics, elocution, etc., I was able to recognize good writing when I read it, and found myself taking my cues of style from writers of old.

When you say it

"When" you say a thing is a matter of plot development—how to tell a good story. In the case of nonfiction, you might choose a logical or time-based sequence to convey your ideas. In the case of fiction, poetry, and other creative works, you are not similarly constrained, and can reveal elements of your story and ideas at any time you choose. This too—your ability to tell a good story in a compelling way—can improve over time with practice.

What you say

Ahhhh...this is where the magic and the mystery occur!

"She's so interesting. I never know what she'll say next!"

Have you described, or have you ever heard someone described in that way? It's a testament to the fact that this person has a unique perspective on life that makes for interesting telling.

Yes, "what" you choose to say is a function of your experiences, your memory, your perception, your focus, your intent, and how the synapses and neurons in your brain function and connect in order to associate them all in unique, yet relevant ways. Everything you've ever experienced in your life becomes fodder for your writing.

This, in my opinion, is what truly makes a good writer—the unique blend of relevant (or even irrelevant) ideas he or she chooses to string together to create a desired effect.

Let me give you one personal example of how to improve this aspect of your writing.

Putting it all together: my own experience

As I mentioned last week, I'm currently traveling and writing about my experiences in China in an occasional "Jamaican in China" email blog to anyone who cares to receive it. My list of subscribers is growing, and includes friends from my previous lives in New York and Saipan and new friends in China too.

The experiences are great, and the feedback to them have been quite astonishing! A regular reader of this column asked me a very profound question.

"A" said, "I love your sense of humor. I wasn't getting that from all your writings on developing your passion, [starting a business] following your dream. Have you thought of lightening up—and injecting some humor into those writings too? Or do you keep them separate on purpose?"

The question haunted me for weeks while I mulled over its implications.I felt there was something very profound hidden in the question as well as the ultimate answer. Something to learn.

I guess I do instinctively keep them separate, but why? Is it that I believe "there's a time and a place for everything"? Is it that I simply feel that humor detracts from the gravity of the business information I wish to convey in my business writings? Is it that I'm not relaxed in my Passion Prophet persona, even though I believe it is my purpose and calling? And if that were true, what would it say about me and this thing that I do as my mission? What? What? What? What? The questions evoked by the question abounded.

Eventually, I penned the beginning of what is likely an ongoing response to "A's" question that I'll share with you now.

Dear "A"

You talked about "lightening up" before. To answer your question, I'm reminded that when I was first introduced to "blogging" just a few years ago, many new bloggers talked about the quest to find their "blog voice."

You noticed something in my travel blogging that I must agree with. Yes, I find, on my part, that not only am I more lighthearted (a natural state of being which you noted was not evident in my business writings) but I also feel I have MUCH more that I want to share! I even have a backlog of article titles/subjects which I've yet to get to!

(You see, as well, that I've got enough material in my head for public dissemination as well as the secret emails for the select few like you.)

A lot of what I'm writing about is coming from a new arrival's observations of life in a culturally different country. So, it's possible that the abundance of observations may lessen over time as "China, the new" becomes "China, the familiar," but if the abundance of material, as well as the lightheartedness and humor you detect have anything to do with the formula for finding one's blog voice, then:

1. writing about something one is excited about,

2. writing about the realization of a long-held dream must all figure into that formula!

Thanks so much for the question. It's still not yet fully answered! There'll be more to come as I explore this thing called writing, and what it means in my life. For now, I will say that the emotional excitement and the realization of a dream—have tapped into a hidden part of my brain's functioning to create the effect you notice.

Back to the basics

Interestingly enough, as you see from my answer to "A's" question, it comes right back to injecting one's passion into one's writing in order to optimize the how, when and what of one's writing ability, style, and effectiveness. Writing about something

See HOW TO on Page 13

THE SAIPANPRENEUR PROJECT

Creating economic success for the CNMI

By WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to walt@passionprofit.com. Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of 16 books including Turn Your Passion Into Profit. Walt offers coaching and workshops to help people pursue and profit from their passions. Originally from the island of Jamaica, Walt has grown several successful businesses in the US, and now makes his home here on Saipan. To learn more, visit www.passionprofit.com and follow Walt on Twitter (waltonsaipan)

The Weather

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲85° ▼79°	▲86° ▼79°	▲87° ▼77°

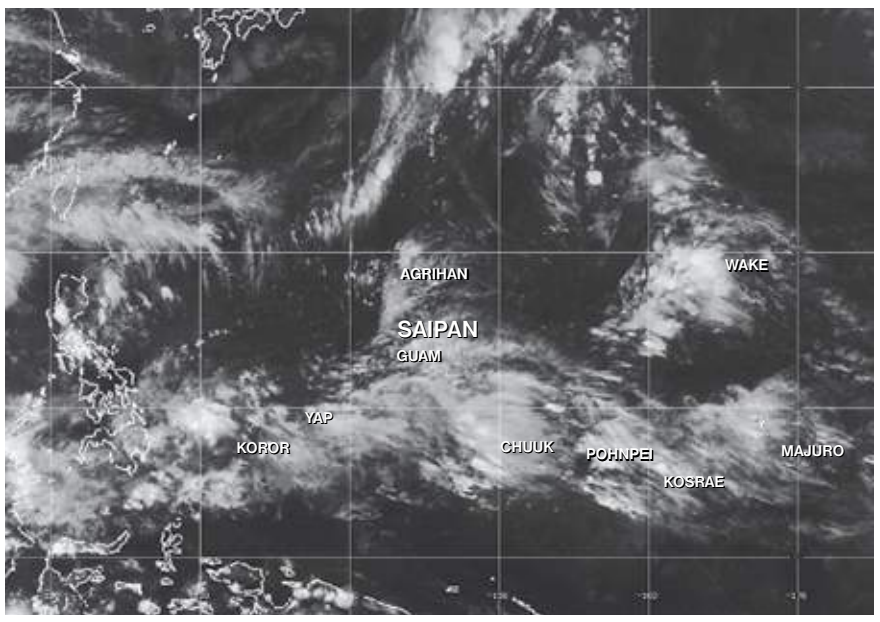
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼78
Palau	Showers	▲85	▼78
Yap	Rain	▲85	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼76
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼76
Kosrae	Showers	▲91	▼76
Majuro	Showers	▲86	▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲64	▼54
Beijing	Sunny	▲78	▼57
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲77	▼75
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼74
London	Mostly Sunny	▲65	▼58
Los Angeles	Showers	▲67	▼56
Manila	Thundershowers	▲88	▼80
Melbourne	Sunny	▲61	▼51
Miami	Windy	▲83	▼69
New York	Showers	▲65	▼51
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲78	▼69
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲72	▼54
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲74	▼63
Rome	Sunny	▲80	▼57
Salem	Sunny	▲80	▼52
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲65	▼57
Seoul	Sunny	▲74	▼57
Tokyo	Sunny	▲74	▼63
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲65	▼52

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2010
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found near an upper low centered west of Wake Island near 19N159E in an area bounded by 13N159E to 16N168E to 25N163E to 25N153E back to 13N159E. A shear line west of Iwo To extends from west of 21N130E northeastward beyond 25N142E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found north of a line extending from 25N137E to 22N137E to 22N140E ending at 25N143E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms across much of Micronesia from Palau to Majuro in a general area between 4N and 11N from 130E to 173E and east of 176E from 3N to 8N.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

12:49 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
6:50 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
1:04 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet
6:56 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:07 AM	6:02 PM
Friday	6:08 AM	6:02 PM
Saturday	6:08 AM	6:01 PM
Sunday	6:08 AM	6:00 PM
Monday	6:08 AM	6:00 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	5:12 AM	5:23 PM
Friday	6:13 AM	6:11 PM
Saturday	7:14 AM	7:01 PM
Sunday	8:17 AM	7:54 PM
Monday	9:18 AM	8:49 PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2010

DEPARTURES

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	5:00am	5:30am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	Daily
C09605	6:35pm	7:25pm	Daily
C09599	9:35pm	10:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:00am	8:35am	Daily
DL297	3:20pm	5:55pm	Daily
DL289	4:35pm	7:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA

DL640	7:40am	10:20am	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	Daily via KIX
OZ606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ604/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:10pm	Daily via NRT
DL640/629	7:40am	10:35pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
C09603/933	3:05pm	8:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09603/893	3:05pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via GUM-Palau
C09599/PR111	9:35pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:20am	11:45am	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:50am	11:45am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	9:30pm	1, 5 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	6:30pm	7:00pm	4, 7

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily
C09606	8:10pm	9:00pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL290	9:45am	2:20pm	Daily
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:40pm	1:10am+1	Daily

NAGOYA-SAIPAN

DL641	9:10pm	1:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/605	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
DL630/641	6:30am	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
DL172/288	7:40am	1:10am+1	Daily via NRT
C0890/9606	10:55am	9:00pm	6 via GUM
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0892/9596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	3,5 via GUM-Palau
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:30pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0910/9596	10:35pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

No blueprint for living

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

In the old '70s when agencies began managing natural resources a programmatic focus, the favored thought was in this saying: the planet did not come with a blueprint, but it operates on a discernable process like a greenhouse which nurtures birth, sustains health and metamorphoses in decay.

The greenhouse organic model (reflected by such bumper stickers as Think Global, Act Local), is the prevailing operating vision and has supplanted the creationist model of revealed reality (which may still be evolutionary except that the process originates from an intelligent design that is guarded by the hierarchy of vested interests to whom one has to learn how to supplicate to be in good terms).

Promoting the American Empire has been our preoccupation since we reached California and wheeled the Oregon Trail. We bought the frozen tundra of Alaska because we knew the natural resources were there for the taking, minerals and fossil fuel, and the Russian Tsar needed the ruble so he sold at basement price. We took Hawaii, Wake, Samoa, Guam as coaling stations for our navy, never mind native sentiments. The Confederates' dream of extending bonded servitude into South America found form in the launching of commerce to the huge market of a weak China. The little brown brothers and sisters in Pea Eye were teachable and made efficient clerks/engineers and nannies/nurses.

President Ike saw a no-longer nebulous industry he was familiar with as a general and as the White House civilian watch. He cautioned the country of the military-industrial complex. I call it the national security industry, from which the whole Covenant to create the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands was based, and no amount of political spin can belie the fact that our existence in the western Pacific is to serve the military national security interest of the nation.

Homeland security is not just a dumping ground of previously existing national agencies. It reflects an assumption that came with the creation of the nation, the freedom from oppression. Public education teaches liberty to pursue one's bliss.

Freedom from oppression began with the right to bear arms as provided for in the second amendment to the U.S. Constitution, though of course, that's a long way from claiming the systemic right to nuke the world, or the right to drone hapless civilians in a war against terrorism out of villages in Afghanistan and Pakistan into Kabul and Islamabad.

This is not a class on Civics. It is about how we can get unstuck in operating with an expert-built blueprint of living, whether it be through a government budget or a PSS-assessed curricula, to mention a couple, and allow the greenhouse to grow life.

Ruth Tighe called not too long ago for a shared vision of the Commonwealth. Make sense. Every management guru promotes the creation of a vision and mission statement as a first step in planning. The Judeo-Christians always quote Proverbs' injunction that "a people without a vision will perish."

I'll go one step further. Let us articulate the current operating vision we are already on, overt or latent, and then decide how we may tweak it, or let it fall as a house of cards so we can replace it with a sturdier one. I suggest that our house of cards is the national security operating vision that has dominated national programs and policies in its whole existence. If we dialogue and agree on this rather than debate and argue about it, we might get somewhere.

Has anyone noticed how environmental impact statements tend to be PhD tomés? Even the deft librarian's touch of a Ruth Tighe cannot wade through the royal thickness of what the military wants to do with Tinian and the rest of the Marianas.

The government budget, and all other budgets has become a tool for bludgeoning people into submission, or trap others in a vicious cycle of entitlement. Budgets are decided to implement actions and can be created to support further deliberation of the same. Have we not all heard the hurried comment at the end of a fiscal year: if you do not spend it, you forfeit the right, and it will also lower your next allocation. Budgets have long ceased to be a support of what we intend to do; they become support beams for programs and structures that have long outlived their effectiveness.

Assessed curricula have fallen into the dreaded "teaching to the test" syndrome, or to the sophisticated assessing of multiple intelligences of recent fad. There are more than seven billion people in the planet, each unique and unrepeatable, and we think we can pigeonhole them into eight categories of intelligences. Is this a variation of the Enneagram's personality profiles and the Zodiac's horrorscopes?

I am waiting for Ray Palacios to pull out his old guitar and lead legislators in a song, a good old chest song, not the perfunctory lip sync singing of anthems. Before an organization I was a part of dissipated, one asked: When did all our troubles begin? Someone hollered, the day the music died.

Someone wants to organize a sing-along at AMP for all of us out-of-work folks? I'll do pedagogy on the side on articulating the current operating vision! Then we can build the parameters of our greenhouse.

MINIMUM

From Page 10

minimum wage.

Individual coverage: Individual coverage is more difficult to determine. If you have a business that does not meet the enterprise definition, individual employees may still be covered. The following workers are covered:

- Workers engaged in interstate or foreign commerce (see discussion below);
- Workers engaged in the production of goods for interstate or foreign commerce (*e.g.*, garment factory workers producing goods for export to the mainland USA);
- Workers engaged in closely related process or production (e.g. subcontractors to garment factories in specialty occupations such as embroidery); and
- Workers engaged in domestic service.

Workers engaged in interstate (or foreign) commerce: With the demise of the garment industry and its collateral businesses, this is the basis of coverage that most small businesses will need to examine. This is a very broad definition and a determination is made on a case to case basis. Please note that only the employee engaged in the specific activity is covered. Some activities that would qualify an employee for coverage would include:

- Communication, including telephone calls, letters, emails, and other forms of electronic communications to other states or countries in the course of business (this would include Guam and may involve anything from ordering or purchasing goods to negotiating a deal);
- Processing credit card transactions; and
- Traveling to other states in the course of business.

Workers engaged in domestic service: This category covers live-in domestic workers such as housekeepers, drivers, cooks and gardeners. Live-in domestic workers must be paid the minimum wage but not overtime. Work hours in excess of 40 hours per week must be paid at the regular hourly rate. Live-out domestic workers are covered as long as the wages paid by any one employer is at least $1,700 per year or more than eight hours per week for any one or more employer.

Caregivers, home health services and companionship services: Whether or not caregivers and home health care workers are covered depends on the worker's qualifications and the nature of the work. If the caregiver is a nurse, a certified nurse's aide or a home health aide, they are covered by the FLSA and must be paid the minimum wage. On the other hand is the caregiver is not a specially trained person, the employment may fall under the "companionship services" exception, and need not be paid the minimum wage. Companionship services means services for the care, fellowship, and protection of persons who because of advanced age or physical or mental infirmity cannot care for themselves. Such services include household work for the aged or infirm person including meal preparation, bed making, clothes washing and other similar personal services. General household work is also included as long as it is not more than 20 percent of the total weekly hours worked by the companion. This category is also exempt from overtime; all hours worked must be paid at the regular minimum wage rate.

We suspect that there are proportionately more businesses in the CNMI than in the mainland U.S. that do not generate gross business revenues of over $500,000. With the exception of large hotels, large retailers, and wholesalers, we are a business community of relatively small businesses. There are many business owners who will be trying to determine whether or not their employees are covered by the FLSA and must therefore be paid the new, increased, minimum wage. This week we addressed the issues of coverage; next week we will address issues of compliance, enforcement and record keeping.

CORRECTION: In our last column we discussed CW applications, and said, "It will take longer per permit and USCIS has far fewer employees in Saipan than CNMI DOL had last November. Anticipate long lines, long waits, and the prospect of many people left out in the cold when the window of opportunity closes." It has been pointed out to us that CW applications will be made through USCIS's California Service Center rather than through the ASC on Beach Road. That's correct, and we should have caught the error—but we still anticipate long processing times if a large number of CW applications are made in a short time.

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to Patrick Candoleta, Wage and Hour Division, Guam, for his patience with our inquiries and his assistance with this week's column. We would also like to direct our readers for further information regarding minimum wage issues to www.wagehour.dol.gov.

The information contained in this column is intended as general information only, and not as individual legal advice. Readers should obtain professional legal advice before taking action with respect to their individual situations. Readers may submit questions regarding federalization or immigration issues to the authors by email to lexmarianas@pticom.com. Readers may also e-mail written questions through the Saipan Tribune at editor@saipantribune.com.

HOW TO

From Page 11

one is passionate about serves as the electricity, the catalyst, and the fuel that enlivens, activates and empowers one's writing. At the very least it can open up new styles of expression that may win new audiences.

What I've learned also from the feedback I receive, is that writing with about living the life of my dreams in a humorous way does not in any way diminish my effectiveness at fulfilling my purpose. It's my desire to inspire people to do what they love to do and live the life of their dreams. "E" sent me the following email yesterday:

Hi Walt!

Incredible! I just read your Jamaican in China [ebook] cover to cover! You are a true inspiration to me. Wow—you are truly living your dreams!
This arrived at a great time for me.
You are my hero!
Keep inspiring us—we need you.

" E"

Hopefully, without sacrificing any of my humility by saying so, "E" also believes I am now a better writer than I was before!

Note: Walt's fans and followers may check out his new adventures on jamaicaninchina.com.

Note: Ever wanted to direct your friends and family to a set of websites that revealed the best things about Saipan? Do what I do: send them to www.bestofsaipan.com!

Until next week, remember, success is a journey, not a destination!—Walt

Letter to the Editor

Thank you CHC

I would like to thank Dr. Trenton Shalby and his emergency staff at CHC, for assisting me on Sept. 29, 2010. You extended care, understanding, comfort, and most especially professionalism during my stay in the ER. While going through my ordeal and being there, I got to witness firsthand the environment and working conditions that you were all dealing with and I was impressed by your professionalism. Therefore, if any of you should need assistance from Capitol Hill, don't hesitate to ask for Rep. Conner's office, and I'll be glad to assist you in any way I can. Again, thank you.

Trenton B. Conner
Congressman, 17th House Representative, Precinct #4

Business

Treasury cuts bailout price tag to $50 billion

WASHINGTON (AP)—The $700 billion financial bailout will cost about $50 billion, the Treasury Department said Tuesday.

The price tag was included in a report on the two-year program and is lower than earlier projections—including a $66 billion estimate this summer by the Congressional Budget Office.

Treasury notes in the report that the bailout, known as the Troubled Asset Relief Program, or TARP, helped stabilize the financial system and prevent a deeper crisis. It says independent economists credit the program with preventing economic collapse.

Treasury's powers under the law expired on Sunday. The report reviews its actions over two years to rescue failing banks, automakers and others. The law passed in October 2008 with support from lawmakers in both parties and the Bush administration.

"I hope this report will allow the American people and their representatives in Congress to reassess the initiative and its impact," Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner wrote in a cover letter to lawmakers.

The report is being circulated four weeks before the midterm elections. The economy has emerged as the top issue for voters, and many lawmakers could be punished for supporting the financial bailout.

Critics say it insulated banks from risky moves that nearly wrecked the economy and solidified permanently the dominance of a few large banks. And there was little help for Americans outside the world of high finance, they say.

Independent government watchdogs have criticized Treasury for trumpeting billions in "profits" or "revenues"—without mentioning that losses would eclipse those gains. Treasury still makes frequent references to taxpayer profits. The watchdogs also criticized Treasury for treating the banks with too much deference.

Geithner acknowledged some missteps during a town hall meeting with TARP staffers last month.

"TARP was not perfect," he said. But the program "delivered in ways few could have imagined."

Hundreds of banks still hold billions of bailout dollars. Many need the money to survive. The GAO said 78 bailed-out banks have problems that could sink them.

Meanwhile, the bailout's special inspector general is adding staff to handle the growing number cases involving alleged bailout fraud by banks.

AP

Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner testifies on Capitol Hill in Washington Wednesday, Sept. 22, 2010, before the House Financial Services Committee hearing on "The State of the International Financial System, including International Regulatory Issues Relevant to the Implementation of the Dodd-Frank Act."

Roland given accreditation designation

HAGATNA, Guam—Daniel A. Roland has been awarded the Accredited Investment Fiduciary® designation from the Center for Fiduciary Studies.

Roland

The AIF designation signifies training in fiduciary responsibility and follows a two-day course and examination.

Roland, a resident of Guam, is executive director for Asia Pacific Association for Fiduciary Studies, a non-profit educational association which aims to raise the level of understanding and standards of practice among fiduciaries.

APAFS' advocacy in promoting prudent stewardship of entrusted funds is manifested through events and activities such as the Country Conference and Pacific Region Investment Conference. In 2010's lineup of conferences, more institutional investors, financial regulators and public officials are anticipated to take part in discussing current issues relating to the 2010 edition of the Global Investment Policy Standards (GIPS), as APAFS recognize the vitality of improved consistency in the calculation and presentation of investment performances.

As one of the founding members of the association, Roland plays a valuable role in directing its policies. Likewise, he contributes greatly to the planning of the different regional conferences.

Apart from the Pacific Region Investment Conferences, APAFS holds a series of Country Conferences which are a venue for more sophisticated, in-depth discussions on investment of institutional funds and other topics relevant to each country. These information-driven gatherings boast of presentations from recognized experts on the latest trends and best practices affecting institutional funds today. In addition, public officials and business executives will have the opportunity to interact with these experts to better familiarize themselves with issues surrounding institutional fund management. This year, APAFS has already held country conferences in Palau and Pohnpei. ***(PR)***

French ex-trader must pay $6.7 billion for fraud

PARIS (AP)—Ex-trader Jerome Kerviel was convicted on all counts Tuesday in history's biggest rogue trading scandal, sentenced to at least three years in prison and ordered to pay his former employer damages of euro4.9 billion ($6.7 billion)—a sum so staggering it drew gasps in the courtroom.

The court rejected defense arguments that the 33-year-old trader was a scapegoat for a financial system gone haywire with greed and the pursuit of profit at any cost—a decision sure to take some pressure off the beleaguered banking system overall.

By ordering a tough sentence for a lone trader, the ruling marked a startling departure from the general atmosphere of hostility and suspicion about big banks in an era of financial turmoil. It was a huge victory for Kerviel's former employer Societe Generale SA, France's second-biggest bank, which long had a reputation for cutting-edge financial engineering and has put in place tougher risk controls since the scandal broke in 2008.

Obama promotes family-friendly hours at businesses

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama promoted flexible hours and other family-friendly workplace policies Tuesday, telling a conference of female business leaders that such arrangements are more than a women's issue.

While addressing Fortune magazine's 2010 "Most Powerful Women Summit," Obama said companies with flexible arrangements can have lower turnover and absenteeism and higher productivity.

Obama said he wants federal agencies to be models with policies like mobile workplaces and flexible schedules. He urged that employees be judged "by the results they get, not the facetime they log."

Obama also supports paid leave programs and child tax credits.

The Fortune event, in its 12th year, brought together hundreds of women who have succeeded in fields from business to education to philanthropy. Obama said their achievements show how much progress women have made in the workplace since his grandmother hit a "glass ceiling" after becoming a bank vice president in Hawaii.

But, the president said in a dinner speech the Carnegie Mellon Auditorium, "we still have a ways to go."

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Yum Brands post 7 percent gain in 3Q profit

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP)—Yum Brands Inc., owner of the Pizza Hut, Taco Bell and KFC fast-food brands, said Tuesday that its third-quarter profit grew 7 percent on surging overseas sales that offset a slight downturn in U.S. operations. Buoyed by its performance, Yum raised its forecast for full-year earnings to $2.48 per share from $2.43 per share. Yum shares fell 20 cents in aftermarket trading to $46.60, after the company said its U.S. operating profit fell 2 percent, dragged down in part by sluggish sales at KFC. Yum said Tuesday that its net income was $357 million, or 74 cents per share, for the three months ending Sept. 4. That compares with $334 million, or 69 cents per share, a year earlier.

Jamaica PM: $125 million to fix storm damage

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP)—It will take at least $125 million to repair flattened farmland, rutted roads, broken bridges and eroded beaches across storm-staggered Jamaica, the island's leader announced Tuesday. During his first address to parliament since the outer bands of Tropical Storm Nicole ripped across Jamaica last week, Prime Minister Bruce Golding delivered a preliminary repair bill while cautioning lawmakers that a more detailed assessment was still being carried out. "The cost to repair the damage and provide assistance to those severely dislocated will impact significantly on the country's delicate fiscal situation," Golding said.

Oil hovers below $83 after US crude supply jump

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices hovered below $83 a barrel Wednesday in Asia after a report showed U.S. crude supplies unexpectedly jumped last week, suggesting demand may be weaker than anticipated. Benchmark oil for November delivery was down 14 cents to $82.68 a barrel at midday Singapore time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract gained $1.35 to settle at $82.82 on Tuesday. The American Petroleum Institute said late Tuesday that crude inventories rose 4.4 million barrels last week while analysts surveyed by Platts, the energy information arm of McGraw-Hill Cos., had forecast a drop of 1.3 million barrels. Inventories of gasoline and distillates fell, the API said.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
10,944.72	1,160.75	2,399.83
193.45	23.72	55.31
1.80%	2.09%	2.36%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.0287	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7564	Philippine Peso	43.4450
British Pound	0.6282	Indian Rupee	44.2950	Singapore Dollar	1.3096
Canadian Dollar	1.0146	Indonesian Rupiah	8,917.5	South Korean Won	1,123.5
Chinese Yuan	6.6950	Japanese Yen	83.1250	Swiss Franc	0.9656
Euro	0.7221	Malaysian Ringgit	3.0896	Taiwan Dollar	30.8185
		New Zealand Dollar	1.3347	Thailand Baht	29.9500

Nation

Times Sq. bomber sentenced, warns of more attacks

NEW YORK (AP)—The Pakistani immigrant who tried to detonate a car bomb on a busy Saturday night in Times Square accepted a life sentence with a smirk Tuesday and warned that Americans can expect more bloodshed at the hands of Muslims.

"Brace yourselves, because the war with Muslims has just begun," 31-year-old Faisal Shahzad told a federal judge. "Consider me the first droplet of the blood that will follow."

His punishment for building the propane-and-gasoline bomb and driving it into the heart of the city in an SUV in May was a foregone conclusion, since the charges to which he pleaded guilty carried a mandatory life sentence, which under federal rules will keep him behind bars until he dies.

But the former budget analyst from Connecticut used the courtroom appearance to rail against the U.S., saying the country will continue to pay for occupying Muslim countries.

"We are only Muslims trying to defend our religion, people, homes and land, but if you call us terrorists, then we are proud terrorists and we will keep on terrorizing you until you leave our lands and people at peace," he told U.S. District Judge Miriam Goldman Cedarbaum.

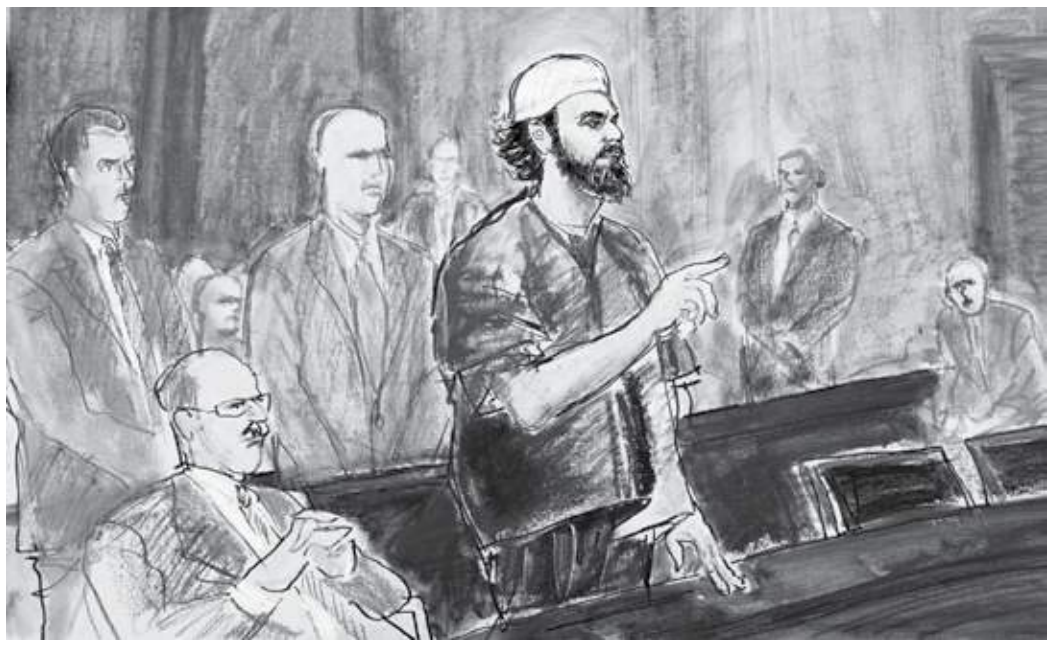
Shahzad—brought into the courtroom in handcuffs, and wearing a long beard and white skullcap—had instructed his attorney not to speak, and Cedarbaum told prosecutors she didn't need to hear from them.

That left the two free to spar over his reasoning for giving up his comfortable life in America to train in Pakistan and carry out an attack authorities say could have killed an untold number of pedestrians.

"You appear to be someone who was capable of education and I do hope you will spend some of the time in prison thinking carefully about whether the Quran wants you to kill lots of people," Cedarbaum said.

Shahzad responded that the "Quran gives us the right to defend. And that's all I'm doing."

The judge cut him off at one point to ask if he had sworn allegiance to the U.S. when he became a citizen last year.



AP

This courtroom sketch made Tuesday, Oct. 5, 2010 shows Faisal Shahzad, center, surrounded by U.S. Marshals and accompanied by his attorney Philip Weinstein, left, during his sentencing in Manhattan Federal court in New York.

"I did swear, but I did not mean it," Shahzad said.

In his address to the court, he said Osama bin Laden "will be known as no less than Saladin of the 21st-century crusade"—a reference to the Muslim hero of the Crusades. He also said: "If I'm given 1,000 lives, I will sacrifice them all."

Shahzad smirked when the judge imposed the sentence. Asked if he had any final words, he said, "I'm happy with the deal that God has given me."

Afterward, the head of the FBI's New York office, Janice K. Fedarcyk, cited evidence that Shahzad hoped to strike more than once.

"Shahzad built a mobile weapon of mass destruction and hoped and intended that it would kill large numbers of innocent people and planned to do it again two weeks later," Fedarcyk said in a statement. "The sentence imposed today means Shahzad will never pose that threat again."

U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara called Shahzad a "remorseless terrorist who betrayed his adopted country."

"We have to be concerned about homegrown terrorists given recent events. We're working as hard as we can to make sure we don't have another event like that," Bharara said.

White House spokesman Nick Shapiro said the administration was pleased with the sentencing.

"We tried the case in a civilian court, we were able to use everything that he said and everything that we uncovered for intelligence collection purposes," he said. "His trial served no propaganda purpose for al-Qaida, and only underscored the strength of our justice system."

ACROSS THE NATION

Vt. police: Body is missing 78-year-old grandma's

WATERBURY, Vt. (AP)—The curious disappearance of a 78-year-old grandmother is now a murder mystery: A body found in the woods by two bird hunters has been identified as hers, and police Tuesday called it a homicide. Investigators used dental records to identify the remains of Pat O'Hagan, a vibrant widow who lived alone in rural Sheffield, a town of about 700 residents in Vermont's verdant northeastern corner that has no stores or stoplights. O'Hagan, who had nine grandchildren, was reported missing Sept. 11 after not appearing for a date with a friend to go to a rug-hooking session. Tightlipped police investigators, who have said O'Hagan was forcibly abducted, said Tuesday they know the cause of death but won't divulge it, saying they want to preserve the integrity of the investigation.

Conn. jury convicts man in deadly home invasion

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (AP)—A paroled burglar was convicted Tuesday of murdering a woman and her two daughters in their suburban home during a night of terror that drew comparisons to "In Cold Blood" and bolstered efforts to retain the death penalty in Connecticut. The mother was sexually assaulted and strangled. Her two girls died of smoke inhalation after the youngest was sexually assaulted, they were tied to their beds and doused in gasoline, and the house was set on fire. Steven Hayes, 47, could be sentenced to death. His attorneys have admitted his involvement and will argue for a life sentence.

Driver cuts off truck, abducted Calif. girl flees

FRESNO, Calif. (AP)—An 8-year-old girl who was abducted by a stranger while playing outside a Fresno home escaped from her captor Tuesday morning after a driver recognized the suspect's vehicle and cut it off, police said. The child was found in Fresno about 11 hours after she disappeared around 8:30 p.m. Monday, triggering a statewide Amber Alert. Police arrested Gregorio Gonzalez, 24, who they said was a member of the Bulldogs street gang. Fresno Police Chief Jerry Dyer said the driver recognized the red pickup truck from media reports that showed surveillance video of the kidnapper's vehicle.

2 Utah teens critically hurt in lightning strike

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—Two Utah teenagers were flown to a Las Vegas hospital with life-threatening injuries Tuesday after being struck by lightning outside their high school, Washington County school district officials said. District spokesman Brad Ferguson said school had just gotten out for the day when Christopher "Dane" Zdunich and Alex Lambson were hit shortly before 3 p.m. outside Snow Canyon High School in Santa Clara. "They were just a few yards from the building," Ferguson said. He said Zdunich is a junior and Lambson is a senior. Both boys are 17 years old, the district said on its website.

GOP-allied group weighs in with $4 million in ads

WASHINGTON (AP)—A deep-pocketed alliance with ties to top Republicans Karl Rove and Ed Gillespie is pumping more than $4 million into key Senate races in a single week of advertising, a crucial infusion to counter a surge in Democratic Party spending as Election Day draws near.

The new wave of ads by Crossroads Grassroots Policy Strategies and its affiliate, American Crossroads, comes during the final, most intense weeks of the congressional campaign. The money, together with that of other groups aligned with the GOP, represents a new beachhead in this year's less regulated world of money and politics.

For the two Crossroads groups, the new spending means they have poured nearly $14 million into fiercely competitive Senate races in eight states—Florida, Illinois, Kentucky, Missouri, Pennsylvania, Nevada, Colorado and Washington—since August.

Overall spending this year in House and Senate races by candidates, outside groups and the political parties had reached $220 million as of mid-September, according to a Wesleyan University analysis of ad data from Kantar Media/CMAG. Most was by candidates, but nearly one-fifth came from interest groups, a vast majority favoring Republicans.

Crossroads' efforts are among the most prominent examples in the increased political activity by tax-exempt nonprofit groups, illustrating new terrain in campaign finance. A landmark Supreme Court case, Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission, opened the way early this year for corporations and unions to spend money in elections. New FEC guidelines and lower court rulings have also contributed to a more free-wheeling environment.

As a result, the Internal Revenue Service has come under increasing pressure from Democrats to act against conservative or GOP-allied groups, placing the tax agency in an awkward position of being dragged into a political fight that it can't possibly address until well after the Nov. 2 elections are over.

On Tuesday, two organizations that advocate for tougher campaign finance rules filed a complaint with the IRS asking it to investigate the tax-exempt status of Crossroads GPS.

"If we are correct, then tax laws are being abused to hide donors," Democracy 21 President Fred Wertheimer said in an interview.

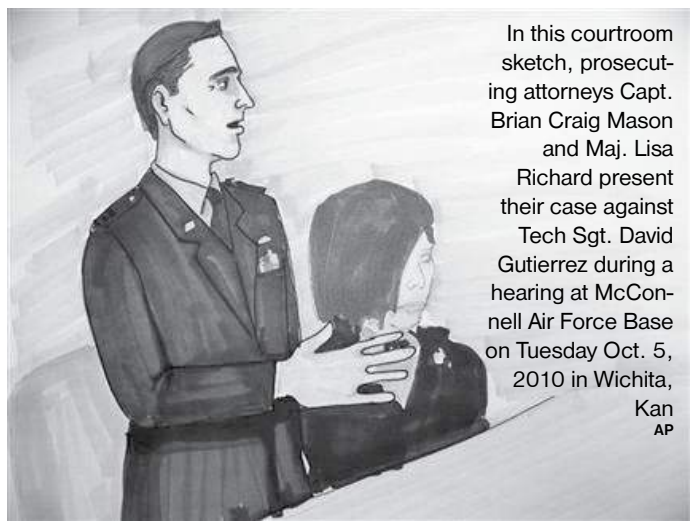
Women testify about sex with HIV-positive airman

WICHITA, Kan. (AP)—Two women testified at a military hearing Tuesday that they would not have had sex with an airman had they known he was HIV positive, and one said she believed him when he said he wasn't because he was in the Air Force.

Tech Sgt. David Gutierrez has been charged with violating military law by having unprotected sex with at least 11 people without telling them he was infected.

The two women who testified Tuesday detailed numerous encounters where they had unprotected sex with Gutierrez, including at several so-called swinger parties in the Wichita area. Some of their sexual encounters were videotaped by the 43-year-old airman's wife, they said.

One woman, from Topeka, testified she asked Gutierrez whether he had any sexually transmitted diseases and believed him when he assured her he didn't.



In this courtroom sketch, prosecuting attorneys Capt. Brian Craig Mason and Maj. Lisa Richard present their case against Tech Sgt. David Gutierrez during a hearing at McConnell Air Force Base on Tuesday Oct. 5, 2010 in Wichita, Kan

AP

Asked why she believed him, she tearfully replied, "Because he is Air Force. They have integrity. I trusted him."

The woman testified about numerous sexual encounters between May and June of last year. Asked on cross examination whether she had been infected with HIV, she said no.

The other woman, who now lives in Bailey, Colo., also said on the stand that she would not have had sex with Gutierrez at swinger events had she known he was HIV positive. She was not asked whether she had been infected.

The women have asked not to be identified, and The Associated Press does not normally identify people who may be victims of crimes of a sexual nature.

Gutierrez, who was stationed at McConnell Air Force Base with the 22nd Maintenance Operations Squadron, has been under arrest there since Aug. 9.

Along with one count of aggravated assault for each sexual partner, Gutierrez has been charged with violating his squadron commander's October 2009 order to notify his sexual partners about his HIV status before having sexual relations and to use a condom. He also has been charged with indecent acts for allegedly having sexual relations in front of others, adultery and obstruction of justice.

Tuesday's Article 32 hearing, similar to a civilian grand jury, is used to determine whether there is enough evidence to proceed to a court martial proceeding. No plea is entered at this stage.

Asia

Japan says maritime spat with China over

BRUSSELS (AP)—Japan declared an end Tuesday to a dispute with China over a high-seas collision last month and the two countries agreed to resume exchanges and projects that had been stopped because of the incident. The breakthrough came after the prime ministers of the two countries held an impromptu after-dinner meeting in the corridor of an Asia-Europe summit.

But the Sino-Japan dispute over uninhabited islands in the East China Sea that led to the maritime clash last month remained unresolved, with both countries claiming possession.

The diplomatic confrontation threatened to dampen the atmosphere at the biannual Asia-European Union summit, or ASEM, as Prime Ministers Wen Jiabao of China and Naoto Kan studiously avoided each other during the first session of the 48-nation conference.

But then they walked out of the working dinner at the same time and "happened to meet in the corridor," said Satoru Satoh, the Japanese Foreign Ministry press secretary. They talked briefly and agreed to move past the maritime incident. Only the two men and their interpreters were there, he said.

"This particular incident is over," he told reporters in Brussels.

In Beijing, the Chinese Foreign Ministry said in a statement "both parties agreed to strengthen non-governmental exchanges and communications between the governments, and to hold high-level Chinese-Japanese talks at the appropriate time."

Despite the thaw, both sides remained firm on the territorial dispute: The statement said Wen reiterated that the uninhabited islands—called Diaoyu by China and Senkaku by Japan—belong to China.

Tokyo also made clear Japan was not compromising on its claim, which dates back to 1895. Satoh said Japan sees no need to ask a third party or the U.N.'s International Court of Justice to mediate the territorial dispute.

In Tokyo on Tuesday, Japanese Foreign Minister Seiji Maehara called on Beijing to meet and discuss ways the countries could avoid similar spats in the future.

"There is no territorial dispute in the East China Sea," he said at a press conference. "But I do understand the importance of Japanese-Chinese relations, and if on both sides we can put our heads together, we can find ways to prevent such unfortunate incidents from happening again in the future.

"Our window for negotiation is always open," Maehara said, pledging to work to restore ties with China.

9 killed, 26 wounded in 2nd day of Kandahar blasts

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan (AP)—Two explosions killed nine people and wounded two dozen others in Kandahar, the second day of deadly blasts in the southern Afghan city where Taliban insurgents are fighting back against U.S. and Afghan forces pushing into areas long held by insurgents.

A car bomb and a second, smaller blast killed nine people Tuesday, including one Afghan policeman, Kandahar provincial health director Qayum Pokhla said. Police officers were also among the 26 people wounded.

Three explosions just minutes apart killed three Afghan police officers in the city Monday night. When police gathered to tend to the wounded after the first blast, two more explosions occurred, said Zelmai Ayubi, spokesman for the provincial governor of Kandahar.

Noor Ahman, deputy mayor in Kandahar, was killed in an insurgent attack Monday and later in the day Habibullah Aghonzada, a former district chief in Arghistan, was gunned down by assailants as he prayed at a packed mosque.

NATO described the two as "dedicated public servants who sought to improve the lives of their fellow countrymen."

The military alliance announced Tuesday an insurgent involved in the kidnapping of a New York Times reporter was captured in northern Afghanistan. The unidentified militant was apprehended by Afghan and coalition security forces in Takhar province overnight Monday, a statement said.

The insurgent was linked to senior Taliban and Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan leaders in northern Afghanistan and Pakistan, NATO said. He "terrorized the local populace," and targeted police and local officials in attacks, it said.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Police: NATO supplies hit again in Pakistan

QUETTA, Pakistan (AP)—Gunmen in southwest Pakistan torched eight NATO oil tankers and shot dead a driver Wednesday, police said, in the latest strike against supply convoys heading for Afghanistan since Pakistan shut a key border crossing to international forces last week. The attack occurred in a parking area of a roadside hotel on the outskirts of Quetta, the capital of Baluchistan province. At least eight trucks were on fire, and around a dozen others were parked nearby, senior police official Hamid Shakil said. Firefighters were trying to douse the flames. The attacks have further raised tensions already elevated by Pakistan's decision to close the Torkham crossing in the northwest in apparent reaction to alleged NATO helicopter strikes on its territory. One of those NATO strikes killed three Pakistani paramilitary soldiers.

Judges want to bear arms after RP shooting

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Motorcycle-riding gunmen killed a regional trial court judge in the northern Philippines on Monday, prompting calls to exempt judges from a current gun ban. Judge Reynaldo Lacasandile was waiting for a ride to go to work when one of two men on a motorcycle shot him twice with a pistol in Vigan province's Tagudin township. He died while being brought to a hospital, police said, adding the attack could be work-related. It was the second fatal attack on a judge this year. A judge was shot to death in northern Cagayan province last May. Two other justices survived separate grenade and bomb attacks in April.

Flash floods in eastern Indonesia kill at least 56

TELUK WONDAMA, Indonesia (AP)—Heavy rain unleashed flash floods and mudslides, killing at least 56 people in a remote corner of Indonesia that rescuers were struggling to reach, officials and witnesses said Tuesday. With dozens still missing, residents in West Papua province's hillside village of Wasior were combing the mud in search of survivors, some with their bare hands. Hundreds of houses were destroyed—at least 30 of them completely flattened. "I heard a roar and suddenly the river broke its banks," said Ira Wanoni, describing the scariest deluge, which occurred early Monday. "Water mixed with rocks, mud and logs gushed out. ... Many people didn't have time to save themselves."

World

Hungary sludge flood called 'ecological disaster'

DEVECSER, Hungary (AP)—Hungary declared a state of emergency in three counties Tuesday after a flood of toxic red sludge from an alumina plant engulfed several towns and burned people through their clothes. One official called it "an ecological disaster" that may threaten the Danube and other key rivers.

The toll rose to four dead, six missing and at least 120 people injured after a reservoir failed Monday at the Ajkai Timfoldgyar plant in Ajka, a town 100 miles (160 kilometers) southwest of Budapest, the capital.

Several hundred tons of plaster were being poured into the Marcal River to bind the toxic sludge and prevent it from flowing on, the National Disaster Management Directorate said.

So far, about 35.3 million cubic feet (1 million cubic meters) of sludge has leaked from the reservoir, affecting an estimated 15.4 square miles (40 square kilometers), Environmental Affairs State Secretary Zoltan Illes told the state news wire MTI.

AP

Tunde Erdelyi is seen in her yard flooded by toxic mud in the town of Devecser, Hungary, Tuesday, Oct. 5, 2010.

Illes called the flood an "ecological catastrophe" and said the sludge could reach the Raba and Danube rivers. He suspended activity at the plant and ordered the company to repair the damaged reservoir.

The disaster agency said 390 residents had to be temporarily relocated and 110 were rescued from the flooded towns, including Kolontal, Devecser and Somlovasarhely. Firefighters and soldiers swept through the region Tuesday carrying out cleanup tasks with bulldozers.

The sludge, a waste product in aluminum production, contains heavy metals and is toxic if ingested. Many of the injured sustained burns as the sludge seeped through their clothes, and two faced life-threatening conditions. Two women, a young man and a 3-year-old child were killed in the flooding.

Donors pledge $11.7 billion to fight AIDS, TB

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Donors committed $11.7 billion on Tuesday to fight AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria for the next three years, far below the $17 billion needed to meet U.N. goals to slow and beat the killer diseases.

The contributions to The Global Fund to fight the three pandemics represented a more than 20 percent increase over the $9.7 billion pledged for 2008-2010, which U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon welcomed saying the money "is enough to give millions of people living in fear a new lease on life."

But The Global Fund's executive director, Michel Kazatchkine, told a news conference after Tuesday's pledging meeting that he is concerned because the $11.7 billion will slow expansion of existing programs and therefore delay efforts to beat the three diseases and inevitably cost lives.

Many organizations involved in fighting the diseases were highly critical of donor nations, especially the United States, though the Obama administration increased the U.S. contribution by nearly 40 percent.

"Today marks a sad turning point in the fight against AIDS, TB and malaria, as world leaders have officially underfinanced The Global Fund," Dr. Jennifer Cohn of Doctors Without Borders said in a statement. "This decision will result in the death of millions of people from otherwise treatable disease."

WORLD BRIEFS

Israeli rabbis visit torched West Bank mosque

BEIT FAJJAR, West Bank (AP)—Six rabbis from West Bank settlements took a step Tuesday to defuse tension over an arson attack at a West Bank mosque, apparently by extremist settlers—they presented 20 new Quran books to replace those damaged in the blaze. During the rabbis' visit to the mosque in the village of Beit Fajjar, Palestinian residents held charred pages of the burned Quran books. The mosque was not seriously damaged. Israelis and Palestinians denounced the fire. The attackers left Hebrew slogans on the mosque walls, including the word "revenge." It appeared to be the latest action in a campaign that extremist Jewish settlers call the "price tag," their response to moves by their government to remove unauthorized settlement outposts and other similar measures.

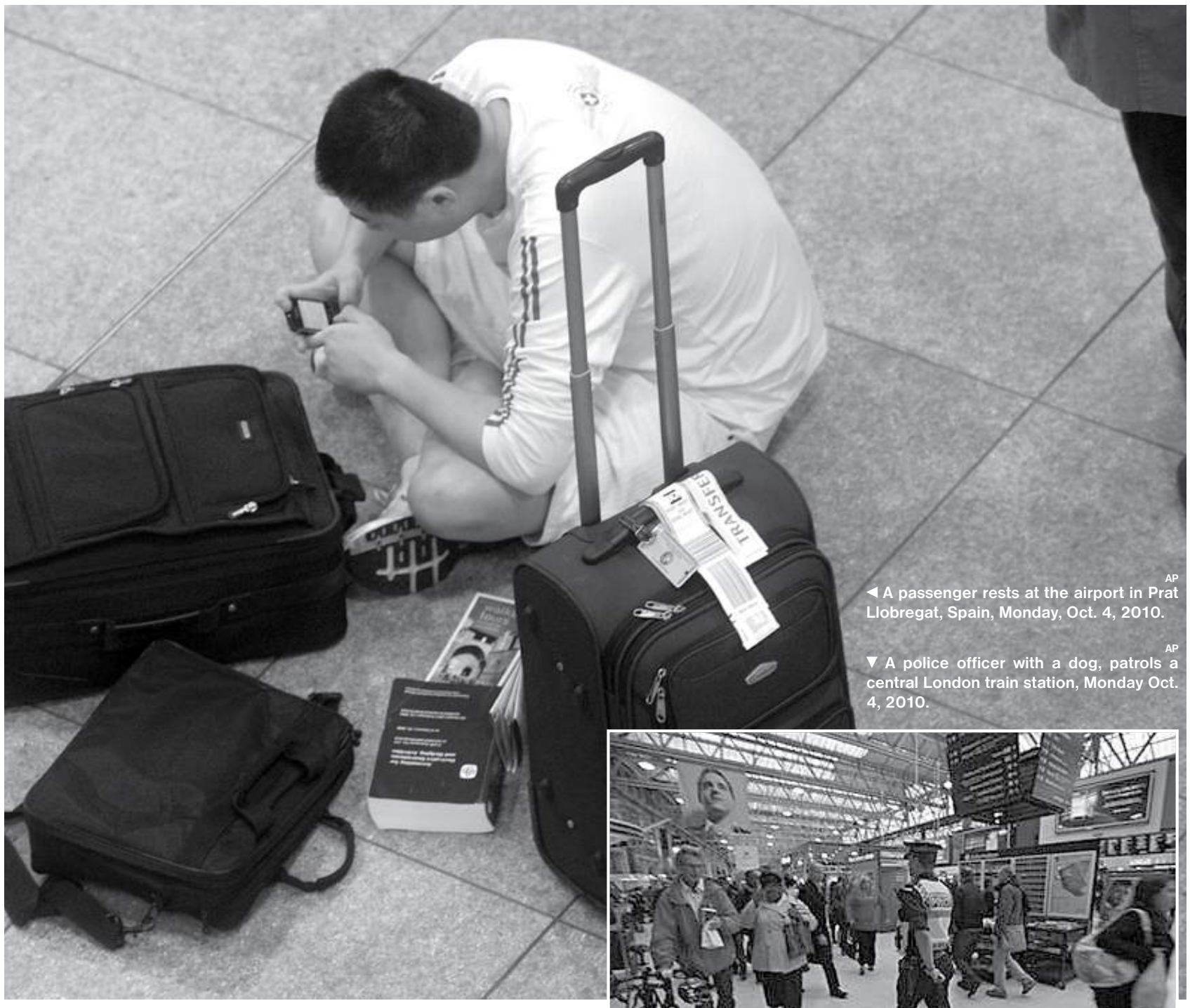
Prosecutor: Video shows Saudi prince beating aide

LONDON (AP)—Security camera footage captured a Saudi prince savagely beating his servant in a luxury hotel elevator only weeks before the aide was slain, a British prosecutor said Tuesday. Prince Saud Abdulaziz bin Nasser al Saud is accused of murdering Bandar Abdullah Abdulaziz in a frenzied sex attack at London's Landmark Hotel Feb. 15. Abdulaziz was found beaten and strangled to death in the room the two shared at London's Landmark Hotel. Prosecutor Jonathan Laidlaw told London's Central Criminal Court Abdulaziz there was evidence of a sexual assault, including bite marks on the victim's cheeks.

20 kidnapped in Acapulco had no criminal records

MORELIA, Mexico (AP)—Twenty men kidnapped last week in the Pacific resort city of Acapulco had no criminal records and may have been targeted by mistake, Mexican investigators said Tuesday. Police have found no trace of the men, whose kidnapping is one of the biggest blows yet to a resort city whose sparkling bay was a favorite playground of Hollywood's elite decades ago. Acapulco has long since lost its former glory and is now mostly popular with Mexican tourists. Even that source of income has been jeopardized as the port city becomes a drug trafficking battleground.

Focus



AP
◀ A passenger rests at the airport in Prat Llobregat, Spain, Monday, Oct. 4, 2010.

AP
▼ A police officer with a dog, patrols a central London train station, Monday Oct. 4, 2010.

Euro terror alert spotlights voiceprint technology

LONDON (AP)— Did their voices betray them? The discovery of an alleged terror plot against Europe owes at least some of its success to "voiceprint" technology that allows law enforcement to electronically match a voice to its owner.

The technique—which some compare to fingerprinting—can be a powerful anti-terror tool, officials increasingly believe. Law enforcement agencies are already considering how a voice database could help thwart future plots.

The reported plot against European cities, in which suspects allegedly spoke of a Mumbai-style shooting spree, has triggered travel warnings and refocused attention on al-Qaida activities on the Pakistan-Afghanistan border, where several of the voices were recorded.

The British eavesdropping agency GCHQ deployed voice identification software to help uncover the plot that officials say has targeted Germany, Britain and France—with famed sites such as Notre Dame Cathedral and the Eiffel Tower under close surveillance.

"Advances in these types of technology have been key in thwarting plots and catching suspects," a British government official told The Associated Press, speaking on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of his work.

Despite progress made in quashing the plot, officials still speak of an ongoing threat.

Police in southern France on Tuesday arrested 12 suspects in sweeps against suspected Islamic militant networks, including three men linked to a network recruiting fighters for Afghanistan.

In one of the cases, nine suspected Islamic militants were detained in southeastern Marseille and its suburbs, and authorities turned up at least one automatic rifle and a pump gun, the officials said. In Tuesday's other roundup, two men were arrested in Marseille and another in southwestern Bordeaux on suspected ties to a Frenchman arrested in Naples, Italy, last month accused of links to an Afghan recruiting ring.

Officials in Germany were tight-lipped Tuesday on details of a U.S. missile strike in Pakistan's rugged mountain border area where Pakistani officials said eight German militants were killed.

U.S. officials believe a cell of Germans and Britons was at the heart of the Europe terror plot. Germany's ARD public television cited unidentified sources Tuesday as saying four of the Germans killed in the missile attack were of Turkish descent.

Developers of voice biometric technology say it can be more useful than traditional fingerprint analysis in fighting terror.

"You have potential for there to be a larger database for criminals' voices than their fingerprints. What are the chances that you'll get a foreign terrorist's fingerprint versus a foreign terror suspect's voiceprint?" said Germano Di Mambro, who runs Wellesley, Massachusetts-based Porticus Technology Inc.

Supporters point to several other high-profile successes in voiceprinting. Colombian drug kingpin Juan Carlos Ramirez Abadia, who used plastic surgery and multiple aliases to dodge authorities, was arrested in 2007 after the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency matched his voice to a tape recording previously made by Colombian authorities.

But academics in the field of speech processing have offered caution.

In a 2003 paper presented to a conference in Geneva, several experts warned that there was no scientific way of identifying a person's voice with absolute certainty.

Frederic Bimbot, one of the paper's authors, said the term "voiceprinting" was a misnomer because it suggested that the technique was as reliable as fingerprinting.

"This is absolutely not the case," his paper said, noting that, unlike a persons' prints, voices are highly variable—changing according to age, health, and emotional state. When contacted through e-mail late Monday, he said his opinion had not changed.

Voices can also be altered voluntarily, he said, adding that, at present the technology was simply "not mature enough to enable definite conclusions of any kind."

Whatever its reliability, voice biometrics have drawn considerable interest from governments around the world.

Only a month after the Sept. 11, 2001 terror attacks, the Pentagon identified voiceprints as one of the dozens of priority areas in research and development, and it has been used in the field since the invasion of Iraq, according to former U.S. officials, who spoke condition of anonymity to describe classified technology.

Interpol is also interested in voice biometrics, the head of its fingerprint unit told the AP.

Mark Branchflower, head of Interpol's fingerprint unit, said voice samples could be stored and shared with Interpol's 188 member countries via its secure global communications network.

The private sector has already embraced the technology, with U.S. probation officers using it to monitor offenders, and Canadian call centers using it to identify customers. Israel's largest bank, Bank Leumi, says it has been using voice biometrics for the past decade to deter fraud and boost customer safety.

The technology has strong potential for streamlining intelligence operations, experts say.

U.S. and British intelligence run an international eavesdropping program that gathers huge amounts of information. So big is the overload that the National Security Agency is building a massive storage center in Utah to handle the mountains of data.

Almog Aley-Raz, whose Israel-based company PerSay Ltd. supplies governments and businesses around the world, said that using voice biometrics could allow officials to scan a large number of phone conversations for a several suspects' voices, greatly streamlining intelligence work.

"An entry-level server enables you to run 100 streams of audio against maybe 100 voiceprints," he said, noting that in some cases dozens or even hundreds of servers could be run back-to-back to comb through intercepted calls.

Aley-Raz accepted that the technology had its flaws—it is vulnerable to background noise and poor audio quality, for example, and can become confused when people start talking over one another.

"It's just another tool," he said—but one that can point terror-hunters in the right direction.

Environment

Last weekend's Saipan International Coastal Cleanup collected 6,280 lbs of trash.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

6,280 lbs collected during Saipan International Coastal Cleanup

A final count of 1,089 Saipan residents volunteered their time on Friday, Sept. 24, and Saturday, Sept. 25, to collect 6,280 lbs of trash from coastal areas of Saipan.

Government agencies, private businesses, schools and clubs all joined the effort to cleanup our beaches, which was dubbed Saipan International Coastal Cleanup.

Of the 53 groups that participated, 27 used data sheets to record all marine debris and pieces of garbage that they collected. This data has been compiled by Coastal Resources Management and is available to the public. According to the data, items most often littering our beaches include: cigarette butts, plastic bottles, aluminum cans and plastic bags. Out of 16,716 pieces of garbage reported, 4,652 were cigarette butts, 1,323 were plastic bags, 1,826 were aluminum cans and 1,390 were Styrofoam containers.

"We now have a better idea of the types of trash that need to be targeted for reduction on Saipan," said Rachel Zuercher of the cleanup planning team. "For example, it's clear that plastic bags and Styrofoam containers are a huge problem. These types of trash cannot be recycled in the CNMI and we need to work hard to reduce their use."

Other concerning debris that was removed include 16 fishing nets that could have easily ended up back in CNMI waters to continue trapping fish and wildlife, 177 batteries that leach toxic chemicals directly into the sea, and 147 six-pack holders that are notorious for strangling marine wildlife.

"The good news," said Guy Macaranas of CRM, "is that many of the items found on the beaches can be recycled. It is clear from the huge Coastal Cleanup turnout that people are willing to make an effort to reduce marine debris. We just need to transfer that effort to our everyday lives and begin recycling at home."

"The Cleanup Planning Team wants to send out another huge thank you to all volunteers in Saipan, Tinian and Rota. Without community support, this event would not have made nearly the impact that it did," says Rachel Zuercher.

For a complete list of groups that participated in the 2010 Saipan International Coastal Cleanup, please visit the Beautify CNMI website at http://beautifycnmi.blogspot.com/. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Out of 16,716 pieces of garbage reported, 4,652 were cigarette butts, 1,323 were plastic bags, 1,826 were aluminum cans and 1,390 were Styrofoam containers.

Science-to-Action offers three ocean management booklets based on MMA research

The global ocean crisis is the focus of three new publications promoting solutions based on research from marine managed areas.

Produced by the Science-to-Action partnership, which includes more than 75 organizations led by Conservation International's Marine Management Area Science Program, the publications are based on five years of natural and social science research in over 70 marine managed areas in 23 tropical countries.

Drawing on the results of more than 50 studies, the Science-to-Action partnership offers recommendations for successful implementation of marine managed areas (MMAs) to maximize the benefits to people and nature. The findings and recommendations are presented in 3 reader-friendly, richly illustrated booklets:

■ People and Oceans explores the role of people in marine managed areas, including the human well-being benefits and challenges of MMAs, and how socioeconomic conditions affect success: http://www.science2action.org/peopleandoceans

■ Living with the Sea examines the role of MMAs in restoring and sustaining healthy oceans, particularly the importance of local management efforts: http://www.science2action.org/livingwiththesea

■ Marine Managed Areas: What, Why, and Where defines MMAs and discusses the challenges of implementation: http://www.science2action.org/mmas-whatwhyandwhere

These booklets may be used to advance discussions with government agencies, non-government organizations, user groups, and other stakeholders to influence better decisions for coastal and ocean resources and about how and why to implement integrated management systems for the ocean.

These and other publications may be downloaded in pdf format at our new website http://www.science2action.org. Please contact Septiana Rustandi at s.rustandi@conservation.org if you would like printed copies of the booklets. Figures and illustrations from the booklets are provided on the website in jpeg format for use in presentations and documents. Additional information on marine managed areas and the Science-to-Action global learning network is also available at http://www.science2action.org. ***(PR)***

Trashed sparks discussion about ways to reduce in the CNMI

Last Friday, nearly a 100 people packed the American Memorial Park visitors center for the fourth installment of First Friday Films. The National Park Service and DEQ sponsored event featured the movie *Trashed*, which tells the story of garbage and how it is affecting our environment.

Attendees received reusable grocery bags aimed at decreasing plastic bag usage and prior to the film were able to browse through displays detailing trash issues here in the CNMI and how they relate to our environment.

Following the film, Solid Waste Management Division's Steve Hiney spoke about the CNMI's waste management system. Hiney shared plans to ramp up recycling operations and start composting yard waste. Through funding from the U.S. Department of Energy the CNMI is in the process of buying a grinder, which is expected to arrive early next year and help breakdown green and yard waste for use in the landfill and a planned composting program. Hiney also fielded questions from the audience.

The film highlighted some companies who have succeeded in turning "waste" into enterprise, a topic which piqued the interest of some viewers. In the film one small business runs a multimillion dollar operation by reclaiming and selling used goods, while another reclaims profits by tapping into solar energy and reusing materials. The stories told in *Trashed* demonstrated how the vast majority of "garbage" thrown out can in fact be recycled or reused—and sometimes, at a profit.

The movie's theme complemented the hugely successful International Coastal Cleanup, led by the Coastal Resources Management Office. During the two-day event volunteers around the Marianas retrieved and properly disposed of more than 6,000 pounds of trash.

Next month's feature film is *Blue Gold,* playing on Nov. 5 at 6:30pm. The film examines the wasting and over use of limited global fresh water supply and the conflicts that are building because of it.

For more updates and more information on upcoming events: http://firstfridayfilms-saipan.blogspot.com. ***(PR)***

Life & Style

Nobel Prize honors super-strong, super-thin carbon

NEW YORK (AP)—It is the thinnest and strongest material known to mankind—no thicker than a single atom and 100 times tougher than steel. Could graphene be the next plastic? Maybe so, says one of two scientists who won a Nobel Prize on Tuesday for isolating and studying it.

Faster computers, lighter airplanes, transparent touch screens—the list of potential uses runs on. Some scientists say we can't even imagine what kinds of products might be possible with the substance, which hides in ordinary pencil lead and first was extracted using a piece of Scotch tape.

Two Russian-born researchers shared the physics Nobel for their groundbreaking experiments with graphene, which is a sheet of carbon atoms joined together in a pattern that resembles chicken wire.

Andre Geim and Konstantin Novoselov of the University of Manchester in England used Scotch tape to rip off flakes of graphene from a chunk of graphite, the stuff of pencil leads. That achievement, reported just six years ago, opened the door to studying what scientists say should be a versatile building block for electronics and strong materials.

"It has all the potential to change your life in the same way that plastics did," Geim, 51, a Dutch citizen, told The Associated Press. "It is really exciting."

Michael Strano, a chemist at MIT, said trying to predict its uses would be "folly ... We can't even imagine the uses we're going to find."

But he and others have some ideas. Graphene's electrical properties mean it might make for faster transistors, key components of electronic circuits, and so lead to better computers, the Nobel committee says. As a single layer of carbon atoms it's tiny, which could pay off in more powerful cell phones, several scientists said.

And since it's practically transparent, it could lead to see-through touch screens and maybe solar cells, the committee says. It might also pay off for big TV screens.

Its tremendous strength could produce new composite materials that are super-strong and lightweight, for use in building airplanes, cars and satellites, the committee says.

So why aren't pencil leads super strong, if they contain graphene? Breaking a lead generally involves a shearing off between graphene sheets rather than breaking the sheets themselves, explained James Tour of Rice University. And while a person can tear up a single sheet of graphene, it's still stronger than a one-atom-thick sheet of anything else.

"There's nothing stronger," Tour said.

Graphene has not made its mark in ordinary consumer products yet, although some prototype electronic display screens and composite materials have been created, Strano said.

Lots of scientists are studying it, in some cases to learn about basic physics, Strano said. Researchers are still trying to find a practical way to make large quantities of pure graphene, something more amenable to large-scale use than the Scotch-tape approach, he said.

"The field is still very new," he said, and the awarding of the $1.5 million prize to Geim and Novoselov is "absolutely marvelous."

Joseph Stroscio, a physicist at the National Institute of Standards and Technology, said he had thought it would take a few more years of scientific appraisal before graphene would win a Nobel. But its potential applications and the brand-new behavior it presents for basic physics have drawn strong interest since the 2004 breakthrough, and the prize is well-deserved, he said.

It might take five or 10 years before graphene shows up in products like cell phones, he said.

Novoselov, 36, is the youngest Nobel winner since 1973 of a prize that normally goes to scientists with decades of experience. He holds both British and Russian citizenship.

Paolo Radaelli, a physics professor at the University of Oxford, marveled at the simple methods the winners used.

"In this age of complexity, with machines like the super collider, they managed to get the Nobel using Scotch tape," Radaelli said.

The 2010 Nobel Prize announcements began Monday with the medicine award going to British researcher Robert Edwards, 85, for in vitro fertilization. Unlike the physics prize, which came just six years after the graphene breakthrough, the medicine award came more than 30 years after the birth of the first test tube baby. The prize committee ignores the provision in Alfred Nobel's will that the award honor discoveries made the preceding year because it takes time to measure the benefits.

AP
Professor Andre Geim, left, and Dr Konstantin Novoselov who have have been awarded the Nobel Prize for Physics pose for pictures outside Manchester University, Manchester, England, Tuesday, Oct, 5, 2010.

In Loving Memory of ourbeloved Son and Brother

In Sung Lee

also known as

"JOE"

Born on January29, 1984 and called to eternal rest on October 04, 2010

Survived by:

Father: Chang Sub Lee
Sisters: In Young Lee & In Hee Lee

Daily prayers and church services (October 06-09, 2010) will be offered at the Chapel of CHC at 8:00 pm. Services will be in Korean by the priest of the Korean Presbyterian Church of China Town. We are inviting everybody to join us.

Please join us in thoughts and prayers.

Thank you.
From the family

Please call 285-2390 / 789-8787 / 285-7656 for more information.

Leonard Sine

Born: November 14, 1916

Has joined HIS CREATOR at the age of 93 years on October 3, 2010 at around 3 o'clock in the afternoon.

He was survived by his bereaved wife, GLORIA MONZON SINE and his only son, David Michael Sine.

Novena Masses are being offered for the repose of his soul at SAN VICENTE Parish at 6 o'clock in the evening, which started October 03 until October 11, 2010. We enjoined the readers to attend the novena masses and pray for his eternal rest.

Interment is scheduled on October 14, 2010. His remains will leave CHC at 8 o'clock in the morning for transfer to KRISTO RAI Parish for the Eucharistic celebration at 10 o'clock. Then, his remains will be brought to Veteran's cemetery, Marpi, for the military burial.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, And let perpetual light shine upon him, May he rest in Peace. Amen.

Defense says Smith case defendant tried to help

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A prosecutor in the Anna Nicole Smith drug conspiracy case accused the model's boyfriend and doctors of providing her with drugs to enhance their friendships, but a defense attorney countered Tuesday that it was not a crime for a doctor to prescribe medication for a friend in pain.

Lawyer Brad Brunon, who represents defendant Dr. Khristine Eroshevich, told jurors his client was accused in prosecution summations of giving Smith drugs to make her feel good.

"Isn't that what a doctor is supposed to do?" Brunon asked in his closing argument. "Is there a charge that Dr. Eroshevich committed a crime because she prescribed to a friend? No. It's not a crime."

Brunon was the first of three defense lawyers who will address the jury after prosecutors spent nearly eight hours over two days presenting arguments and an elaborate digital slide show.

Prosecutors misled jurors by showing things such as a burnt spoon and lighter allegedly used to melt down medication, Brunon said, stressing the items were never found and were not in evidence.

"Don't be mesmerized by the pretty colored pictures," he advised jurors about what he called the best high-tech display money can buy.

Brunon, who spoke with few visual aids, was set to continue his argument Wednesday. Lawyers for defendants Howard K. Stern and Dr. Sandeep Kapoor were expected to follow.

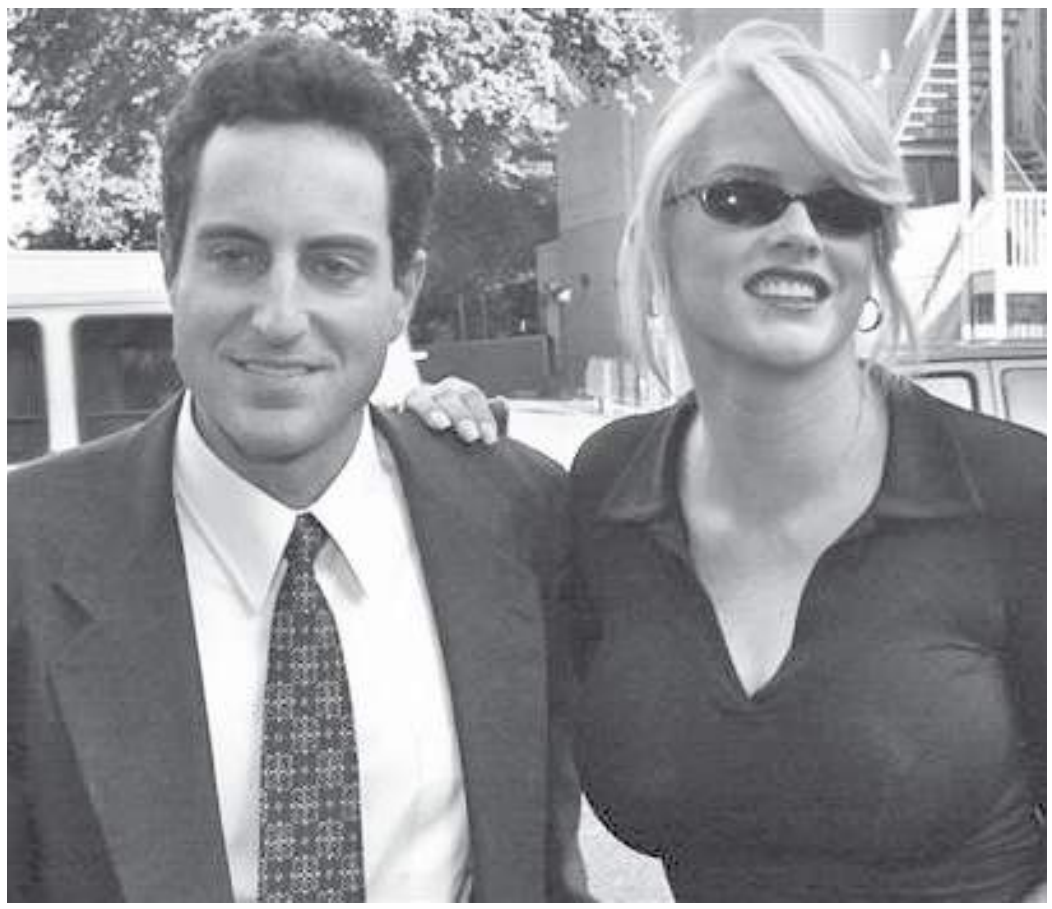
Eroshevich, Stern and Kapoor have pleaded not guilty to conspiring to provide excessive prescription drugs to an addict and other charges. They are not charged in Smith's 2007 accidental overdose death.

Deputy District Attorney Renee Rose concluded her remarks by portraying Smith as surrounded by a circle of enablers, including the defendants, who supplied her with drugs for years despite her obvious addiction.

Rose, who spoke to jurors for four hours, concluded by listing every drug prescribed to Smith during the last three years of her life.

She then asked the jury to convict the defendants of providing excessive drugs to an addict.

Defense lawyers have said their clients are caring people who were trying to rescue Smith from a life of pain.



AP

In this Oct. 2, 2000 file photo, Anna Nicole Smith, right, smiles as she walks to the courthouse with her attorney Howard K. Stern in Houston.

Rose, however, said Stern took no action to help Smith withdraw from opiates and sedatives, while Kapoor and Eroshevich continued to prescribe painkillers for the former Playboy model despite signs she was addicted.

Rose reminded jurors that in the spring of 2006, Smith was admitted to Cedars-Sinai Medical Center while pregnant and trying to stop her use of Methadone and Xanax.

"She's relied on these medications for so many years. She was in a place that could have helped her," the prosecutor said. "But after five days, she says, I'm done. This is too hard."

At that point, Rose said, "she goes back into the environment of enablers, people who don't want her to get better."

Rose said the defendants wanted to preserve their positions in Smith's celebrity world.

In the final months of Smith's life, when Eroshevich flew to the Bahamas with supplies of Methadone and other drugs, Rose said, "She becomes the most important person in (Smith's) life. That's important in determining the motivation."

Another prosecutor said Smith's ailments were a ruse to get drugs.

Witnesses, however, have said Smith suffered from chronic pain syndrome, seizures, migraines, spinal pain and fractured ribs, among other illnesses.

Superior Court Judge Robert Perry reminded jurors that someone who seeks drugs primarily to control pain is not an addict.

'Big Brother' champ admits guilt in tax, drug case

BOSTON (AP)—The winner of the CBS reality show "Big Brother 9" pleaded guilty Monday to a drug charge and for failing to file a tax return for the year he won the show's $500,000 prize.

Adam Jasinski, of Delray Beach, Fla., was arrested outside Boston last October and charged with attempting to sell 2,000 pills of oxycodone, the main active ingredient in OxyContin and other painkillers.

He had originally pleaded not guilty to possession with attempt to distribute oxycodone but changed his plea to guilty during a hearing Monday in U.S. District Court in Boston. He also pleaded guilty to the tax charge, which was added Monday by prosecutors.

Sentencing is not scheduled until Jan. 11, but Jasinski was immediately handcuffed and taken into custody to begin serving his time.

Jasinski, 32, was arrested after showing a government witness two plastic bags filled with oxycodone, police said.

While reciting a summary of the evidence prosecutors would have presented if the case had gone to trial, Assistant U.S. Attorney Linda Ricci said the cooperating witness purchased 2,000 oxycodone pills from Jasinski in February 2009. She said Jasinski agreed to fly to Boston in October 2009 to sell the witness another 2,000 pills.

After the witness picked Jasinski up at Boston's Logan International Airport on Oct. 17, 2009, they drove to North Reading, where Jasinski removed a white sock from his pants, Ricci said. The sock contained two plastic bags filled with blue pills later determined to be oxycodone.

After Jasinski won the $500,000 prize on "Big Brother 9" in April 2008, he failed to file an income tax return and failed to pay taxes owed on the money, Ricci said. The series features contestants who live under constant surveillance and vote once a week to evict each other.

Judge William Young said that under federal sentencing guidelines, Jasinski faces a maximum of 14 years on the drug charge. The tax charge is a misdemeanor that carries a maximum sentence of one year.

It was unclear what sentence prosecutors will recommend. A plea agreement was filed in court but was sealed from public view.

Jasinski's lawyer, Valerie Carter, said she planned to recommend a sentence of house arrest. Carter asked Young to allow Jasinski to remain free on bail, with strict conditions, until he is sentenced, but Young rejected that request.

During questioning from Young before he entered his guilty pleas, Jasinski said he is being treated for bipolar disorder and drug addiction.

"I'm actually seeing results," he said.

Carter said Jasinski spent four months in a drug rehabilitation center in Massachusetts, and since then has been in nonresidential treatment in New Jersey, near his parents. She said he has passed every drug test he's been given since his arrest.

In an affidavit filed in court shortly after his arrest, a Drug Enforcement Administration agent said Jasinski told him he had been using some of his winnings from "Big Brother 9" to buy thousands of oxycodone pills and resell them along the East Coast.

At the time, Carter disputed that, saying Jasinski didn't have any recollection of telling agents he used a portion of his winnings to buy oxycodone.

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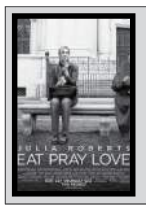

Eat, Pray, Love

Friday		4:00	7:00	9:40
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	9:40
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Mon through Thurs		4:00	7:00	

Julia Roberts, James Franco
Drama • Rated PG 13

Synopsis
A woman who once made it her goal in life to marry and rear a family finds her priorities suddenly shifting in director Ryan Murphy's adaptation of author Elizabeth Gilbert's best-selling memoir. In the eyes of many, Gilbert was a woman who had it all—a loving husband, a great apartment, and a weekend home—but sometimes one realizes too little too late that they haven't gotten what they truly wanted from life.

Sa'yo Lamang

Friday		4:15	7:15	9:50
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:15	9:50
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15	
Mon through Thurs		4:15	7:15	

Lorna Tolentino, Christopher de Leon
Drama • Rated NR

Synopsis
The story of Sa'yo Lamang movie revolves around Dianne Alvero (Bea Alonzo) who was left with the responsibility of taking care of her siblings played by Coby (Coco Martin), James (Enchong Dee) and Lisa (Miles Ocampo). When their father (Christopher de Leon) comes back, she finds it difficult to forgive him. Will love, faith and forgiveness prevail during the most trying times in their life?

Legend Of The Guardians: The Owls of Ga'Hoole

Friday		4:20	7:20	9:30
Saturday	1:20	4:20	7:20	9:30
Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:20	
Mon through Thurs		4:20	7:20	

Sam Neil, Geoffrey Rush
Fantasy, Action • Rated PG

Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps

Friday		4:10	7:10	9:45
Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10	9:45
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10	
Mon through Thurs		4:10	7:10	

Michael Douglas, Shia LeBeouf
Drama • Rated PG 13

You Again

Friday		4:05	7:05	9:35
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05	9:35
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05	
Mon through Thurs		4:05	7:05	

Jamie Lee Curtis, Sigourney Weaver
Comedy • Rated PG

Alpha And Omega

Friday		4:25	7:25	
Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:25	
Sunday	1:25	4:25		
Mon through Thurs		4:25		

Justin Long, Christina Ricci
Children's, Family • Rated PG

The Town

Friday				9:55
Saturday				9:55
Sunday			7:25	
Mon through Thurs			7:25	

Ben Affleck, Rebecca Hall
Crime • Rated R

Resident Evil: Afterlife

Friday		4:30	7:30	10:00
Saturday	1:30	4:30	7:30	10:00
Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:30	
Mon through Thurs		4:30	7:30	

Mila Jovovich, Ali Larter
Action, Horror • Rated R

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Margaret Cho sheds a tear as she leaves 'Dancing'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Funny lady Margaret Cho wasn't laughing when she learned Tuesday that she'd done her last dance on "Dancing With the Stars."

The 41-year-old comedian cried after being eliminated from the hit ABC show, but vowed to continue dancing. "I thought the judges were really hard on me, but I think you were hard on me because you could see that I am a dancer for real," she said. "And I thank you for that. I will take that with me forever."

Earlier in the season, Cho revealed that she had loved dance as a child, but quit when someone called her a "fat ballerina."

"Thank you for the opportunity to let me dance," she said. "I'm going to keep dancing."

Cho and her professional partner, Louis Van Amstel, came into Tuesday's episode in last place, collecting just 18 points out of 30 for their colorful, pride-themed samba. She performed in a rainbow dress and said she wanted to promote pride and self-acceptance after a rash of suicides by gay teens in recent weeks.

Judge Bruno Tonioli praised Cho for "wearing the rainbow flag," but he said he couldn't overlook her errors and faulty footwork.

Judges' scores are combined with viewer votes to determine which couple is ousted each week.

Tuesday's episode also included a trio of musical performances. A slimmed-down Ne-Yo sang his new single, "One in a Million." Michael Bolton, who was eliminated as a "Dancing" contestant last week, returned to the ballroom as a last-minute substitute for scheduled performer Susan Boyle, who was sick.

Bolton sang "Hallelujah," backed by a children's choir.

Pro dancers Mark Ballas and Val Chemerkovskiy (brother to the show's Maksim) performed a bizarre duel: Ballas played guitar, Chemerkovskiy played violin, then they each tried to outdance each other.

Returning to dance Monday will be actors Jennifer Grey, Kyle Massey and Florence Henderson; singer-actress Brandy; athletes Kurt Warner and Rick Fox; reality stars Audrina Patridge and Mike "The Situation" Sorrentino; and Bristol Palin.

AP

In this publicity image released by ABC, Margaret Cho, left, and her partner Louis Van Amstel perform on the celebrity dance competition series, "Dancing With the Stars," Monday, Oct. 4, 2010 in Los Angeles.

AP

In this Thursday, July 31, 2008 file photo, Whoopi Goldberg responds during an interview in her dressing room in New York.

Musical adaptation of 'Sister Act' to hit Broadway

NEW YORK (AP)—A theatrical adaptation of the movie "Sister Act" will be getting its groove on in a Broadway theater. Producers say the musical based on the 1992 movie starring Whoopi Goldberg will begin performances at the Broadway Theatre in late March with an opening on April 20.

The show has been a hit in London since it debuted there in 2009. Goldberg, who is also a producer, stepped into the role of Mother Superior this summer.

Casting was not immediately announced.

The musical features a score by Alan Menken, who also wrote the songs for "Beauty and the Beast" and "Little Shop of Horrors," and lyrics by Glenn Slater, who did the same for "The Little Mermaid." None of the movie's songs are used.

Ozzy covers John Lennon for 70th milestone

NEW YORK (AP)—John Lennon would have been 70 this week, and who better to honor his legacy in song than ... Ozzy Osbourne?

Yes, Ozzy Osbourne. The Black Sabbath heavy-metal king has made a cover of Lennon's "How," available Tuesday on Apple Inc.'s iTunes to benefit Amnesty International.

Osbourne says Lennon was a "driving force for humanity." He also credits the Beatles as the inspiration for his musical career.

A video for the song is debuting on AOL's PopEater.com.

The former Beatle would have been 70 on Saturday. He was shot to death in December 1980.

British rocker Ozzy Osbourne performs in Tel Aviv, Tuesday, Sept. 28. 2010.

AP

'Bored to Death' star's dog gets cameo on show

AP

Actor Jason Schwartzman, right, and producer Jonathan Ames pose for a portrait Tuesday, Sept. 21, 2010 in New York.

NEW YORK (AP)—Jason Schwartzman's dog had the face for TV—just not the back for it.

Schwartzman, 30, stars in HBO's offbeat detective comedy "Bored to Death," and show creator Jonathan Ames says he wanted to have Schwartzman's French bulldog, Arrow, in the show. Ames liked Arrow because of his "incredibly beautiful, crushed, tormented face."

Unfortunately Arrow has a bad back and was not up to the rigors of acting. So they cast another dog in his place.

Arrow did have a cameo in the show, though.

"Bored to Death" also stars Ted Danson and Zach (Gal-if-fin-NAK-ihs) Galifianakis.

Pen pal's story could change after his release from prison

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I am a parole officer, and while I agree with and support your response to "Smitten in New York" (Aug. 6), I would like to offer an additional comment. People can and do change their lives while incarcerated. However, when they are in a controlled environment, their changed lives on the outside are still in their imaginations.

Many inmates who make very positive plans for their future when they're released, discover life "on the outs" doesn't unfold the way they imagined it would. Some of them deal with substance abuse issues, mental illness, brain injuries and a lack of education and life skills. I would caution "Smitten" not to become too involved with her pen pal after his release until he has proven his ability to be the partner she believes and hopes he will be.

KELLY IN WASHINGTON STATE

DEAR KELLY: Thank you for your comments. I received many letters from former pen pals of inmates, all advising—pleading with—"Smitten" to run as fast as she can from this man. Today, however, I'll print some from those in the know from the "inside." Read on:

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: "Smitten" and countless other women (and men) who write and visit inmates do not fully understand the situation they're potentially putting themselves in.

Any one inmate receives numerous letters, graphic photos and visitors, and not all from the same "potential special person." Inmates live and breathe a 24/7 confined life, with nothing to do but find ways to entertain or protect themselves.

It's not far-fetched that an inmate may be under the control of a gang affiliation and need to do certain things to gain a "rep" inside the walls. They have plenty of time to consider the who, how, what and wheres of surviving in jail.

Sure, some inmates have taken a different road, but is "Smitten" ready to bring a con into her family in the hopes that he's telling the truth? I work in a maximum security prison in New York. "Smitten," I strongly urge you to reconsider communicating with this inmate. And I hope you're NOT sending him money or letting him know your financial situation.

SEEN FROM THE INSIDE

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am a retired corrections officer from the state of Florida, and this woman has fallen for the most common game played by inmates. One person writes the letter and the others pay him for it with cigarettes or other items they can buy in the canteen. Inmates will come up with amazing fictions to make people feel sorry for them, or send them money to be put in their inmate trust fund.

I can guarantee "Smitten" that this inmate has absolutely no feelings for her and is only using her. If she's that gullible—or stupid—she deserves to be used. If she's that lonely, she should get a dog!

CHRIS IN FLORIDA

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I'm a paralegal who has worked for a criminal defense attorney in Florida for many years. Florida has a comprehensive Web site and its offender information search posts not only photos, but also lists prior incarcerations and case information about the crime for which inmates are presently serving. To find the state prison site, "Smitten" should input "Florida Department of Corrections" and look for the "Offender" information search.

"Smitten" is playing with fire, Abby, and if she gets burned it will be because she'd rather believe the fantasy and ignore the reality. She needs to do her homework before accepting this man's declarations as truth.

FORMERLY BURNED IN FLORIDA

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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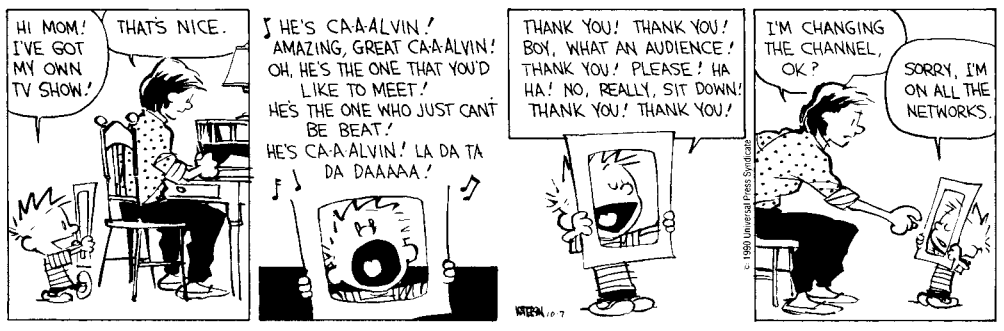
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


HI MOM! I'VE GOT MY OWN TV SHOW!
THAT'S NICE.
♪ HE'S CA-A-ALVIN! AMAZING, GREAT CA-A-ALVIN! OH, HE'S THE ONE THAT YOU'D LIKE TO MEET! HE'S THE ONE WHO JUST CAN'T BE BEAT! HE'S CA-A-ALVIN! LA DA TA DA DAAAAA! ♪
THANK YOU! THANK YOU! BOY, WHAT AN AUDIENCE! THANK YOU! PLEASE! HA HA! NO, REALLY, SIT DOWN! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!
I'M CHANGING THE CHANNEL, OK?
SORRY, I'M ON ALL THE NETWORKS.
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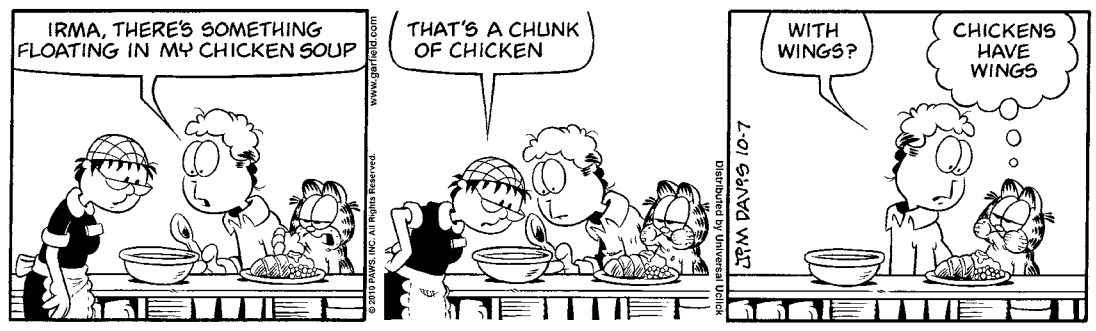
Garfield®

By Jim Davis


IRMA, THERE'S SOMETHING FLOATING IN MY CHICKEN SOUP
THAT'S A CHUNK OF CHICKEN
WITH WINGS?
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JIM DAVIS 10-7
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Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

I KNOW, HONEY. I TRIED TO GET UP EARLY TO RUN...
... BUT IT'S TOO HARD WHEN IT'S STILL DARK OUT. WHICH TELLS ME THAT WE SHOULD SLEEP IN 'TIL THE SUN COMES UP.
IT'S NATURAL... ALL PART OF OUR CIRCADIAN RHYTHMS.
WE'D MISS SCHOOL.
THAT'S THE RUB. HOW WILL WE EVER GET THE KIDS TO AGREE?
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10-7

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

LISTEN UP, EVERY(HIC)BODY! I'VE GOT SOMETHING I WANT TO SAY!"
KLUNK
QUIET, EVERYONE. ENO HAS THE FLOOR!
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10-7

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Jokes
5 Adipose tissue
8 Fleet from far off?
12 Burn remedy
13 Unfriendly
14 Ferris wheel, e.g.
15 Heart of the matter
16 Agt.
17 Boast
18 In
20 Not us
22 A handful
23 Wrong (Pref.)
24 "Carmina Burana" composer
27 Kinship
32 Mai — (cocktail)
33 Mainlander's memento
34 Sticky stuff
35 Oft-mimicked Michael Jackson video
38 In due time
39 Preceding
40 Flightless bird
42 Customs
45 Oriental temple
49 Rara —
50 The whole thing
52 Secondhand
53 Traditional tales
54 Brock of baseball
55 Coaster
56 Odds' mates
57 Easter symbol
58 First-rate

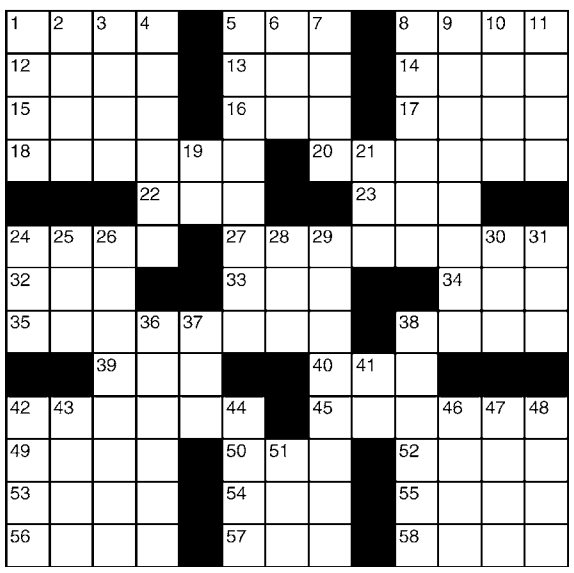
DOWN

1 Pop singer Lady —
2 Came to earth
3 "Gee!"
4 Ignite
5 Intruder-blocking software
6 Expert
7 Glitch in print
8 Street child
9 Aries, Leo or Sagittarius
10 Bloodhound's clue
11 Does some mending
19 Yours truly
21 Acronym to an oversharer
24 Cooperstown's Mel
25 "Go, team!"
26 Stravinsky ballet, with "The"
28 Lawyer's due
29 Hydrant
30 Also
31 Thither
36 Van Gogh subjects
37 Allow
38 Majestic
41 Bell or Kettle
42 Hearty
43 Stratford river
44 Auction
46 Norway's capital
47 Profound
48 Tosses in
51 Journal

Solution time: 25 mins.

F	A	T	E	■	S	O	W	■	S	C	O	W
I	V	O	R	■	P	H	I	■	W	A	L	E
D	O	W	N	C	A	S	T	■	A	S	I	A
O	W	N	E	R	■	■	H	O	R	T	O	N
■	■	■	S	Y	N	C	■	A	M	I	■	■
E	M	I	T	■	E	R	I	K	■	R	P	M
B	A	R	■	F	E	E	D	S	■	O	R	E
B	R	O	■	O	R	E	L	■	K	N	O	T
■	■	N	O	W	■	D	E	M	I	■	■	■
C	A	S	T	L	E	■	■	A	T	H	O	S
A	L	I	T	■	D	O	W	N	S	I	D	E
M	O	D	E	■	G	A	Y	■	C	R	O	W
P	E	E	R	■	E	R	E	■	H	E	R	S

Yesterday's answer 10-7



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Shawn Ashmore, 31; Rachel McAdams, 34; Toni Braxton, 44; Yo-Yo Ma, 55

Happy Birthday: Opportunities are abundant, so choices will be hard to make. Obstacles will prevail if you lack motivation. The choice to sink or swim will be yours. You are in control, whether you know it or not, so don't hesitate when action and response are required to get what you want and when. Your numbers are 4, 9, 15, 26, 37, 40, 44

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Don't make snap judgments. A relationship may need some work, especially if you haven't been communicating well. You can't let anyone bully you, but be patient and try to understand both sides of any issue that arises. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Get your work done and out of the way quickly so you can do something with someone you like. A peer may try to make you look bad. Don't get involved in a war of words with someone who can affect your future. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Socializing, entertaining or networking will all bring about positive change. Offer valid information and well-thought-out strategy and you will avoid someone trying to strong-arm you into taking less or giving up too much. ✪✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Don't make promises you cannot keep. You can expect to face adversity and opposition from someone you live with or who has jurisdiction over what you can and cannot do. Deal with the demands being put on you quickly, leaving time for fun with a friend or lover. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Getting together with a good friend will help you deal with any troubles you are facing at home. Personal conflicts can lead to physical exhaustion if you don't take a break and rethink your next move. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): You can learn a lot about human nature from someone you feel akin to. Share your thoughts and experience and you will feel much better about your past, present and future. Expand your interests and your friendships. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Don't let your emotions get the better of you. If someone pushes your buttons or makes you anxious, back away calmly until you have better control. Impulsive moves on your part will not solve anything. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): There will be underlying facts that you must face up to. If you haven't pulled your weight or done your share, now is a good time to offer something thoughtful and meaningful. Love will be enhanced if you speak from the heart. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Don't let old goals, ideas or hobbies keep you from excelling in the present. Once you know where your talent lies, you will have no trouble moving forward and incorporating your old plans with your new. ✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): It isn't a bad thing to make a change, nor will it hurt your reputation to admit you might have made a mistake. It's what you do to correct anything you've done wrong that will count. The follow-up can be just as rewarding in the end. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Don't let love cloud your vision. Know in your heart what you must do and follow through. You will know how much you are loved by the support and acceptance you receive from the people to whom you are closest. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): You have to look at the big picture and decide what is the best scenario for you. Love and romance are on the rise. Wisdom regarding partnerships is the key. Recognize who is on your side and who isn't. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You were born to ponder, procrastinate, strategize and question. You have integrity, a strong code of ethics and feel a moral obligation to do what's best for others.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

7								1
	2			8	6		9	
	1				2		6	
	6	3		1				
	8						1	
				5		7	2	
	7		4				3	
	5		2	9			7	
9								6

Difficulty Level ★★★ 10/07

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer

1	9	3	2	4	7	8	5	6
6	7	8	5	9	1	4	2	3
2	4	5	6	8	3	9	1	7
7	2	6	8	5	4	3	9	1
5	3	9	1	6	2	7	8	4
4	8	1	3	7	9	5	6	2
8	1	4	9	3	6	2	7	5
9	6	7	4	2	5	1	3	8
3	5	2	7	1	8	6	4	9

Difficulty Level ★★★ 10/06

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

GRAPHS **Solution: 8 letters**

F	A	C	S	S	E	N	I	S	U	B	O	A	R	D
U	R	N	I	L	T	M	W	F	G	E	B	R	I	I
N	S	E	A	R	A	O	I	O	I	A	A	A	N	M
C	P	C	Q	L	C	T	P	T	R	T	G	X	O	E
T	S	A	I	U	Y	L	N	S	E	R	S	N	I	N
I	O	N	R	T	E	S	E	O	A	T	A	G	T	S
O	E	V	A	A	S	N	I	M	Z	N	R	I	I	I
N	E	B	C	L	M	I	C	S	M	I	Y	S	S	O
D	L	T	O	L	P	E	T	Y	D	R	R	T	O	N
E	C	P	M	S	O	A	T	A	O	P	E	O	P	U
G	E	H	P	Ⓓ	R	O	T	E	T	S	P	R	H	M
R	D	R	Ⓐ	W	E	O	H	T	R	S	O	I	C	B
E	T	Ⓣ	R	R	R	T	L	C	E	Y	R	G	T	E
E	Ⓐ	C	E	N	T	E	R	O	S	R	T	I	A	R
M	A	T	H	E	M	A	T	I	C	S	N	N	M	S

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Analysis, Arrow, Axis, Bars, Board, Business, Center, Chart, Circle, Colors, Compare, Curve, Data, Degree, Diagram, Dimension, Draw, Fits, Frequency, Function, Grid, Horizontal, Line, Match, Mathematics, Numbers, Origin, Parameter, Pattern, Plot, Position, Print, Rate, Report, Scale, School, Sets, Sign, Slope, Spot, Statistics, Table, Theory, Time

Yesterday's Answer: Longevity

SALE: The topics of "Wonderword for Kids" appeal to younger fans but the puzzle difficulty matches what you've come to expect from Wonderword. For a limited time, the book is on sale for just $4 each (U.S. funds only), payable to Universal Uclick. Include $3 postage for the first book order. $1 p&h for each additional book. Send to Wonderword, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-6480.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports
There's nothing Super about the Pittsburgh Steelers anymore.
25
28 SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2009
Angamwas rules 4-person
Tribune
FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
TUESDAY DECEMBER 15, 2009
Issue No. 299
Fitial eyes Cepeda's re-appointment to NMC board. PAG
DPH to ask for extension of emergency declaration. PAG
$1.35M earmarks for NMI now up for Obama's
By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER
The fate of the $1.35 million in CNMI special projects funding requested by Del-
egate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) now rests with President Obama, after the conference report on the omnibus Fiscal Year 2010 spending bill cleared the U.S. Senate on Sunday.
Sablan's request for $1.35 million to fund seven programs and projects is contained in the Conference Report on Fiscal Year 2010 Consolidated Appropriations Act, a $447-billion spending measure for
several
agencies
On a
Senate
NMIVA
for gras
Two-person vo
sand to grass to
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Annual Reverse
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ribune.com
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before
Christmas
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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

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Find today's solution in this section

LeBron's next chapter starts with Heat win

MIAMI (AP)—The Big 3 were together for merely three minutes. LeBron James and Chris Bosh more than picked up the slack after Dwyane Wade's preseason debut came to a quick end.

And with that, this era for the Miami Heat got off to a promising, but not perfect, start.

James and Bosh combined for 38 points in their exhibition debuts, and the Heat easily beat the Detroit Pistons 105-89 in the preseason opener for both teams Tuesday night.

"It was something I've waited for all summer," James said. "To be able to be back on the court, it was great. The reception from the fans was awesome and it was great we were able to give them the same energy that they gave us."

The outcome was meaningless, but the game wasn't for Miami—not after Wade limped off just 3:17 into the game with a strained right hamstring. He went into the locker room shortly afterward, did not return, and could miss up to two weeks. Wade expects to be back long before the Oct. 26 regular-season opener in Boston.

"I think Miami's seen me play for a long time," Wade said. "And they'll get a lot of time to see the 'Big 3,' as they say, our team play together."

AP

Miami Heatl forward LeBron James, left, works against Detroit Pistons guard Tracy McGrady (1) during the first quarter of a preseason NBA basketball game, Tuesday, Oct. 5, 2010, in Miami.

Bosh had 20 points on 8-for-13 shooting. James, the NBA's two-time reigning MVP who took his championship pursuit from Cleveland to Miami this summer, added 18, and the Heat weren't challenged after running out to a 20-point lead by halftime.

Udonis Haslem added 14 points and 13 rebounds for the Heat. Ben Gordon led Detroit with 17 points.

"I don't really think they played that great," Gordon said. "Obviously, we didn't play that well either."

By the final buzzer, most of the crowd was long gone. Most came to see the opening moments of this trio's time together, and the fanfare was the sort simply not seen at most preseason games.

James walked from the bench moments before tip-off with the traditional stoic look. He filled his hands with rosin powder, threw it into the air to create a white cloud, then clapped his hands three times.

Same as always. Just totally different.

"The season," James said, "is back."

And when Wade left, James just took over.

He put much of his repertoire on display in the early going: no-look passes, drives to the rim, 3-pointers, even playing some point guard in the first quarter. It always wasn't perfect—he airballed one try from beyond the arc, never saw a wide-open Bosh under the basket on another possession.

At times, it was downright scintillating.

One play after missing Bosh, he set up his new teammate for a dunk that left the former Toronto forward screaming with delight. And with 4.7 seconds left in the first quarter, James ran off a Haslem pick, then spun before going down the lane for a two-handed dunk—waving his arms with a flourish after giving Miami a 24-15 lead.

"I think everyone's been waiting to see us, to see what we've been doing in practice and bringing it into a game setting," James said.

James had 12 points in the first 12 minutes, either scoring or assisting on eight of Miami's first 11 field goals. He returned to the game with 5:03 left in the half to a raucous ovation, set up a 3-pointer by Mario Chalmers with a wraparound behind-the-back pass, and went into intermission with 14 points on 7-of-15 shooting.

Miami led 58-38 at the break, holding Detroit to 39 percent shooting. James and Bosh both played late into the third quarter, before Heat coach Erik Spoelstra declared their nights complete.

"There's some encouraging things to come from this game," Spoelstra said. "The No. 1 thing was our guys wanted to play in front of the home fans. You could tell with their energy. It's been a long week of hitting each other and not seeing any other competition."

James took the floor for pregame at 7:18 p.m., one of the last three Heat players to emerge into view, sandwiched between Bosh and Wade, Metallica's "Enter Sandman" blaring through the arena as usual. The Heat, clad in black warmups, huddled in a hallway just behind the court, as dozens of people leaned to take photos with their cell phones for the first arrival.

James' longtime girlfriend, Savannah Brinson, was in the much-larger-than-usual preseason crowd, but his children weren't—school obligations, James said.

"As a basketball player, as a guy who loves the game of basketball, I'm excited about that, for the season to be back around," James said. "I'm very happy about that."

Bosh knew Tuesday was a big deal when his father insisted on coming to the game.

"He was that excited about it," Bosh said. "He was ready to see us take the court for the first time. Just this fact that he was super-excited about it, that let me know kind of how everybody else is going to be. And if that's how everybody is, it makes it a lot more fun to play."

The Pistons took this game seriously, making it a measure of where they are three weeks before the games start counting, center Ben Wallace said.

"They know everybody's going to be gunning at them," Wallace said. "I heard them say that they know they put the bulls-eye on their back. That helps you to focus, helps you stay on your toes, stay on top of your game knowing that everyone is coming at you night-in and night-out."

Outside, parking lots that used to charge $10 were asking $40 per space. Long lines of fans waited to get in, some wearing James, Wade and Bosh Heat jerseys—and a few wearing James' old No. 23 from Cleveland as well. A notoriously late-arriving Miami crowd showed up to see the pregame introductions, and roared when James' name was called first.

"You can tell it's an exciting time for this city," James said. "And hopefully we can come through and do things that we need to do on the court to keep the fans excited."

This seemed like a good first impression.

Roethlisberger looks sharp, strong in first practice day

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Ten seconds were all Ben Roethlisberger needed to prove to the Pittsburgh Steelers he wasn't affected by his month away from the NFL.

On the first pass he threw Tuesday in his first post-suspension practice, Roethlisberger found fast wide receiver Mike Wallace far downfield for an over-the-shoulder catch of a perfectly thrown football.

Right about then, his teammates probably were thinking the same thing: Ben is back.

"We have our whole team here, and we have our leader—our quarterback—back with us," Wallace said. "He makes everybody better. The offense is definitely going to go in another direction."

Roethlisberger showed no rustiness or lack of rhythm in his first practice since training camp, zipping passes throughout a 30-minute passing drill that was incorporated into the practice to quickly get him and his receivers back in sync.

"It was a good step, and I don't think it'll take as long as I thought," Roethlisberger said.

He'll have two more practice days during this bye week to regain his timing and precision, followed by a full work week before the Oct. 17 home game against Cleveland.

"It normally takes a while to get going out there, but it felt pretty good," Roethlisberger said. "I knew that my arm would be good. I knew it would be strong, and I knew it would feel good. It's just a matter of working with the guys."

Since last being with the team on Sept. 2, Roethlisberger threw almost daily to a collection of receivers at high school stadiums, intentionally throwing more passes than normal because he wasn't throwing any in games. A private quarterbacks coach helped him with his footwork and delivery.

Wallace, the team's fastest receiver, couldn't remember Roethlisberger throwing a bad pass during the entire practice.

"We're going to throw the ball because we've got one of the best guys back," Wallace said. "So I'm excited. I've been smiling. Ever since last night, I've been smiling."

Despite having the league's No. 31 passing offense with fill-in quarterbacks Charlie Batch and Dennis Dixon, the Steelers came out of Roethlisberger's four-game suspension about as good as could be expected with a 3-1 record. Apparently, the quarterback himself came out of the suspension about as good as could be expected, too.

By playing as well as they did without the two-time Super Bowl winner, the Steelers put aside any doubts about how Roethlisberger would be welcomed back. Potentially, there could have been hard feelings if his off-field problems had led to an 0-4 start, but his teammates insisted they've long since put the quarterback's troubles behind them.

Roethlisberger apologized to them during offseason workouts for potentially jeopardizing their season and, by the time training camp arrived, he was warmly received by fans.

Now, seven months after Roethlisberger was accused of, but not charged with, sexually assaulting a 20-year-old woman at a Georgia college bar, the Steelers hope there finally is some closure of the issue from a football standpoint. Even if no one is defending Roethlisberger's behavior or the stress he caused an organization that has long taken pride in the way it conducts itself.

"What's in the past is in the past," wide receiver Hines Ward said. "He did his time. He did his suspension, and now we're moving on. And we're glad to have him back with our team. We're 3-1 right now, so we're going to hand it over to him and let him do his thing and try to win ball games."

The only apology Roethlisberger made upon his return was telling the wide receivers he was sorry they had to do much extra work during an off-week practice.

"What had to be said was said a long time ago," Wallace said. "He was sorry when it first happened, so we didn't need to go over it again or have him apologize. He doesn't have to do that. We know that he's sorry, and we know he's ready to play football."

Roethlisberger's return is expected to open up an offense that has leaned heavily on its running game. With Rashard Mendenhall averaging 102.8 yards rushing - he's second in the league to Houston's Arian Foster—the Steelers probably won't ask Roethlisberger to throw an average of 34 times per game like he did in passing for a club-record 4,328 yards last season.

Ferrera Builders remain undefeated in QQ Cup

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

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Ferrera Builders played its rained-out match against the winless Westerners (0-4) last Friday and won, 90-80, for its fifth win in as many games.

The Westerners and Ferrera Builders went toe to toe in the opening period with the former surprisingly ahead by a mark, 23-24. The court was a little wet, which helped slow down the favored Builders, while the Westerners beefed up their roster with the addition of Kelvin Fitial on the team. Fitial tallied 15 points in the first period to give the Westerners a much-needed boost.

Ferrera's Wowie Abuel hit a couple of treys to start the second and took the wind out of the Westerners' sail. The Westerners were held to only 13 points in the second while Ferrera built an eight-point lead, 45-37, at the half.

The stubborn Westerners kept fighting and trimmed Ferrera's lead to six, 56-62, heading into the final period. Eight markers from Kae Bernardo helped maintain Ferrera's lead.

Ferrera turned it on in the fourth to extend a double-digit win margin, 90-80. Ferrera's James Abuy scored 12 marks in the fourth and Bernardo added 11 more to slam the door on the Westerners in the end.

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Bernardo and Abuy led Ferrera with 29 and 23 points, respectively, while Fitial scored a game-high 36 for the Westerners.

Docomo 79, Cellular Pro 64

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Docomo Pacific now has a 4-1 record.

Larry Sharry scored a string of 10 points after the tip-off to help Docomo build an 18-13 lead after the first quarter.

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Cell Pro never recovered and after being contained to only 13 points in the third period, this game was virtually over before the last quarter began, as Docomo went ahead by 25 points, 64-39.

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In the second game last Monday, Atalig Associates capitalized on a depleted Saimar Pilot in the fourth period for a 95-89 win.

Saimar Pilot started the game with five players, but stayed in the match, trailing by only one, 17-18. Atalig Associates was too lax in the first half, allowing the short-handed Saimar Pilot to remain in contention at the break, 43-all.

Sonny Lerio connected on long triples and scored 22 points to force a deadlock, while Thomas Santos and Badong Camacho paced Atalig in the first half with 16 and 13 markers, respectively.

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Board members, managers, coaches, umpires, and other interested individuals are encouraged to the attend the meeting, where the election of a new board of directors for the 2011 season will be the lone topic in the agenda.

For more information, contact SLLB president Tony I. Rogolifoi at 288-3515. ***(PR)***

TSUNAMI

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The grading system is done to monitor the personal progress of a swimmer. Triple A is the highest or equals the national championship qualifying time. AA grade is about district standard, A is about county standard, B is good club swimmer standard, and C is all of the rest. A table with corresponding times and ages of swimmers is used for the the grading system.

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Omos had another BB grade in the 50m freestyle, duplicating Kaisei Toda's mark, while Nishida and Conner earned B.

Ryuto Yanai had BB in the 200m individual medley, while Tan, Ryosei Toda, and Kang recorded AA.

In the 400m freestyle and 200m backstroke, Staal's marks received AA grades, while Kaisei Toda's 400m freestyle time drew a BB.

In the 50m butterfly, Ryuto Yanai had a BB, Thea Minor recorded a B, while Kaisei Toda and Omos logged BB in the 100m breaststroke. Ryosei Toda submitted a AA grade in the 100m breaststroke.

SIP

From Page 28

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By the time the game entered the final two minutes, SIP was way ahead, 100-84.

Estolas top-scored for SIP with 23 points and drew support from five teammates, who each scored in double figures. Rabauliman and Manolo Manalo chipped in 14 apiece, Leo Factor had 12, and Gil Gapor and Guiab contributed 11 and 10, respectively.

SIP will face pennant champion MDX-Chow Queen tonight for a slot in the semifinals of the open division.

MAFEA 110, Laguna Moonlight 94

In the masters division, MAFEA remained in contention after beating Laguna-Moonlight, 110-94.

MAFEA, which lost its game in the first round of the playoffs against MDX-Monster, leaned on Francis Rebuyon and Moises to make sure the Ebisuya-backed team will not go into the showers early.

Rebuyon and Moises tallied 31 points apiece, teaming up in MAFEA's fourth-quarter breakaway.

MAFEA led by only six at the end of the third canto, 76-70, when Rebuyon logged 14 of his total points in the final quarter and Moises added eight.

Laguna is already eliminated, having lost its first two games in the playoffs.

MAFEA-Ebisuya will next face No. 1 seed Cabalen-Wings Travel.

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The winning team is composed of Tyler and Damian Palacios, Jong Woo Kim, Pauline Nimer, Hatsuko Bearden, Joyjoy Pena, Jirene Lacorte, and Mariol Lopez. SDA has two assistant coaches in Tina Anglin and Edna Linao.

SDA and SIS were the lucky ones to complete the regular season. Other teams in the junior varsity and varsity divisions have this week and next to finish their assignments. Make-up games are scheduled for Oct. 7, 8, and 11.

The playoff round in the varsity division will start on Oct. 18, while the varsity division will begin on Oct. 25. Playoff games are originally set at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium, which remains closed due to the government shutdown.

Gersonde when asked if they have been notified of the venue for the playoffs said they have yet to receive information from league organizers.

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Tsunami Saipan, SSC in Swim Meet

PHOTOS BY ROSELYN MONROYO

Northern Marianas Swimming Federation president Bobby Winkfield fixes the loose lanes rope.

Saipan Swim Club's Andrew Kimball plunges into the pool during the 800m freestyle race.

Saipan Swim Club's Grace Kimball competes in the 800m freestyle.

Swimmers wait for their turn at the starting block.

Tsunami Saipan's Kensuke Kimura races in the 50m breaststroke event.

Logan Mister at the starting block for the 50m breaststroke race.

Left, a swimmer nears the finish line of the 100m backstroke event.

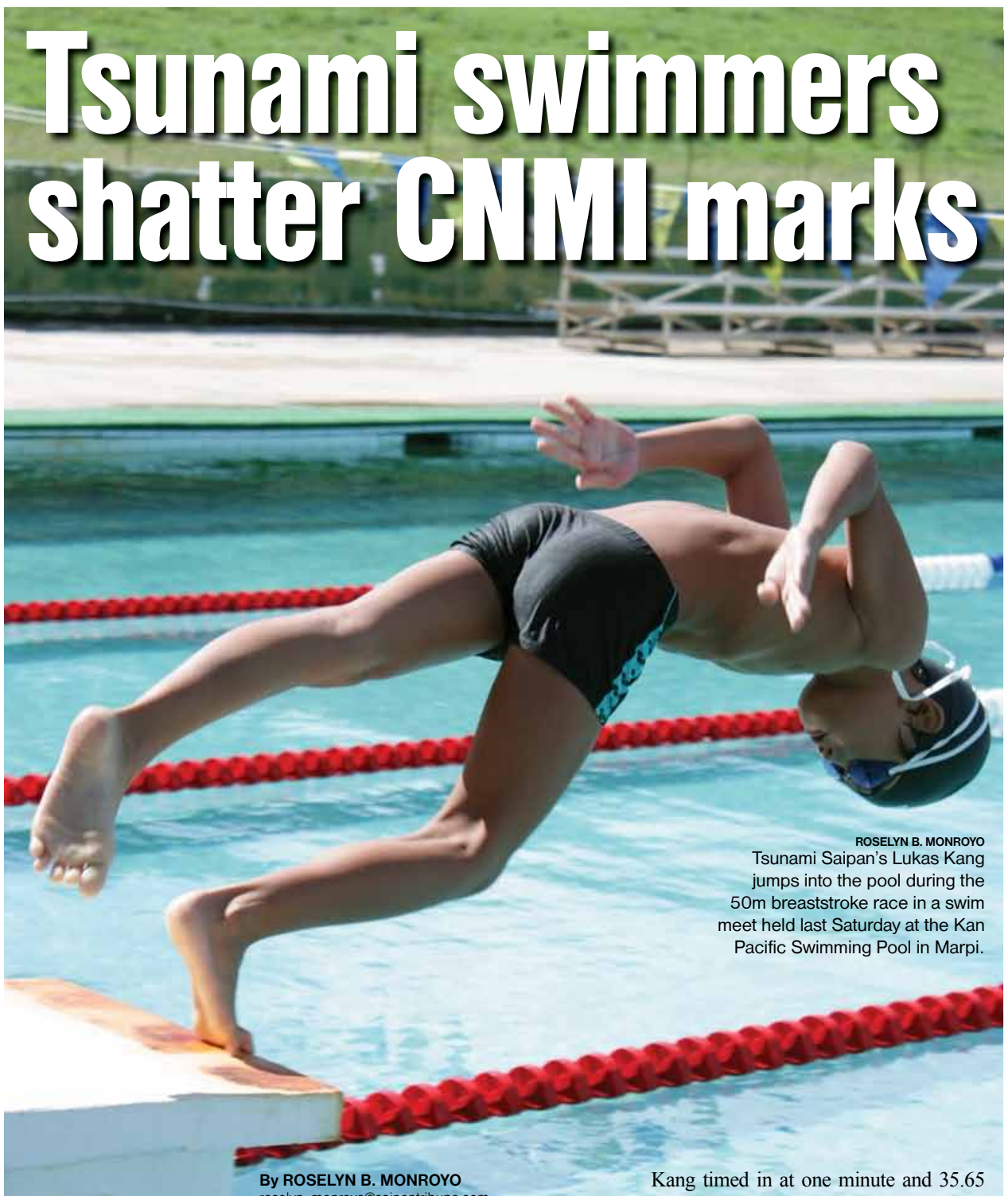
Right, a Tsunami Saipan swimmer splashes water to his face before the start of the race.

Above, swimmers prepare to plunge into the pool for the 100m backstroke race during a meet hosted by Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan and also featured Saipan Swim Club members last Saturday at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

Left, a swimmer plunges into the pool during the 50m backstroke.

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Tsunami swimmers shatter CNMI marks



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Tsunami Saipan's Lukas Kang jumps into the pool during the 50m breaststroke race in a swim meet held last Saturday at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan's Lukas Kang crushed one of the oldest CNMI marks, while teammates Kensuke Kimura and Angel Marie Tan also made it to the record books, following last Saturday's meet at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.

Kang timed in at one minute and 35.65 seconds in the boys U8's 100m backstroke event to eclipse the 1:38.45 Jonathan Sakovich recorded in April 5, 1979. With the seven-year-old Kang breaking Sakovich's 100m mark, the oldest record in CNMI swimming is the 31-year-mark of the latter in the 50m backstroke (42.99 seconds/ March 30, 1979).

Kang's fellow Tsunami Saipan swim-

See TSUNAMI on Page 26

SIP wins; MAFEA stays alive

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Samahang Ilokano at Pangasinense-Mobil snapped its losing skid after thwarting Samahang Ilonggo sa Saipan-Marianas Wireless in their first round playoff game, 109-98, in the 2010 United Filipino Organization Inter-Organizational Reinforced Basketball League last Tuesday night at the JP Center Basketball Court.

Before entering the playoffs, SIP dropped its last four games in the elimination round. Another loss would've eliminated Marvin Deocares' wards, but fortunately SIP regrouped and withstood SIS' rally to advance to the next round.

SIP led most of the way, posting its biggest advantage at 14 in the third quarter before Nat Banatasa and Ernie Moises teamed up in SIS' run and cut the deficit to one, 66-67, entering the final canto.

A triple from Louie Iglecias at the start of the fourth canto put SIS in the lead for the first time, 69-67. Then there was seesaw battle in the next two minutes of the fourth canto with SIS having its last taste of the lead at 78-76 after John Jugos' trey.

After his triple, Jugos committed a sloppy foul, as he tried to reach in against Ron Gamboa. Jugos fouled out and that triggered a series of misfortunes for SIS.

Without Jugos and with only Leo Galarse making shots, SIS was held to only four points in a span of five minutes.

In contrast, SIP got its offense going with Jun Estolas canning two triples, Marvin Rabauliman drilling

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
SIP's Junar Guiab goes for a layup and loses his balances after getting a nudge from SIS-Marianas Wireless' Ernie Moises during their playoff game in the UFO caging last Tuesday night at the JP Center Basketball Court.

Traders Insurance renews support for badminton

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Northern Marianas Badminton Association president Jerry Tan, third left, receives the $2,000 check donation from Traders Insurance president Lito Mendoza during a brief turnover ceremony yesterday at Traders Insurance's office in Susupe. Also in the photo, from left, are NMBA members Marlene Peraja, Dick Guintu, Traders Insurance vice president Malou Mendoza, and chief operating officer and general manager Ernesto Licop.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Traders Insurance donated $2,000 for the 4th Annual Traders Insurance Badminton Team Tournament, renewing the company's commitment for the promotion of the sport in the CNMI.

"As the sport of badminton becomes popular not only in the CNMI, but also in other countries, Traders Insurance will continue with its tradition of supporting a team tournament to promote sportsmanship and physical fitness," Traders Insurance chief operating officer and general manager Ernesto Licop said.

"With the support and active participation of Northern Marianas Badminton Association members and officers, we are certain that this tournament will be successful," Licop added.

Licop along with Traders Insurance president Lito Mendoza and vice president Malou Mendoza presented the company's generous donation to NMBA president Jerry Tan and other officers of the association.

"On behalf of Northern Marianas Badminton Association, I would like

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SDA ends regular season with victory

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Seventh Day Adventist ended the regular season of the junior varsity division of the 2010-2011 Coalition of Private Schools Sports Association Volleyball League on a good note after sweeping Saipan International School B.

SDA cruised to a 25-14, 25-20 victory over SIS-B at the former's home court in San Antonio yesterday to finish with a 9-7 record in the double round-robin regular season. Yesterday's match was also SIS-B's final game in the regular season and unfortunately the As Lito-based team failed to notch a single win in 16 games.

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Members and coaches of Seventh Day Adventist junior varsity team pose for a group photo after beating Saipan International School B during their game in the COPSSA volleyball league yesterday in San Antonio.